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CALGARY GLENMORE

Tight race ends in a tie

In baseball, a tie goes to the runner. On the track, a tie goes to a photo finish.

But in Alberta elections, it seems, a tie goes to an official recount.

Two Alberta election candidates found themselves in limbo Wednesday after their race ended in a tie.

After 28 days of campaigning and more than 21,000 votes cast, Progress Conservative incumbent Linda Johnson and NDP challenger Anam Kazim each ended the night with 7,015 votes in Calgary Glenmore.

Johnson trailed her challenger for most of the evening, but mounted a comeback, tying it on the last poll.

"I'm still in the running," said Johnson. "Through the whole evening I was saying to my team, 'It's not over till it's over.'"

Johnson said a mathematician is needed to determine the odds of a tie after that many votes. Of all the outcomes, she said, this "wasn't on her list".

Elections Alberta was to conduct an official recount of all the ballots Wednesday, but there is no guarantee when the results will be finalized.

If it is still a tie, the next step would be a judicial review, where a judge would examine rejected and spoiled ballots in an attempt to choose a winner.

If that fails to resolve the matter, the constituency would be declared vacant and a byelection called.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP victory fuelling education optimism

SCHOOLS

Incoming government pledged to fund students

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Reducing class sizes and school fees. Introducing a new lunch program for low-income learners. There's even the potential of phasing in a blanket full-day kindergarten program when the province's finances allow.

The NDP's campaign platform pledged plenty for education and the party's election Tuesday had parents and advocates aflutter with hopes for the future.

The budget introduced by the Tories in March offered no additional dollars for 12,000 new students expected to flood into the province this year and also cut into grants for vulnerable groups.

It came under heavy scrutiny and spurred 19 school boards to stand united in what was deemed as an unprecedented protest against the province.

But Tuesday's election of an NDP majority government sparked hope that changes could be made to improve classroom conditions as early as this fall.

"There is some optimism in the fact that we made education an election issue — that isn't something that has always happened in the past," said Lisa Turner, a mother of two children who attend West Dalhousie School.

Calgary mother Lisa Turner, seen with her kids Natalie and Graeme, was among those calling for better education supports during the provincial election campaign. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

She and fellow parents formed a group called Support our Students Alberta and began producing videos and other items to raise awareness about the province's education plight.

"Education is slipping in this country," Turner said. "Infrastructure is not keeping up with growth. Resources are not keeping up with growth. We're seeing changes in test scores and even Alberta Education's own test marks. It's exciting that a government that was elected told us they are making education a priority."

> **"It's exciting that a government that was elected told us they are making education a priority.**
> Lisa Turner

Members of the NDP government were not available for comment Wednesday, but the party's education platform online pledges they "will cancel the PCs' cuts to education funding and fund enrolment growth" and "focus on class size reduction initiatives, reduce school fees by half, and introduce a school lunch program to reduce child hunger."

Linda Wellman, trustee chair with the Calgary Catholic School District, one of the organizations that protested the budget indicated that there's still time put additional funds to good use for the 2015-16 school year.

"Budgets are just a plan, that's all they are, and we develop a plan based on what the known facts are at a certain point in time," she said, "And if those facts change, then we, obviously, have the ability to change with that."

UPSETS

Election night surprises

When Ricardo Miranda recently signed on to be the NDP candidate in Calgary-Cross, he figured he'd have a year to finish up his schooling and continue on with his job as a flight attendant.

Now he's due to be sworn in to the legislature early next week.

His victory was seen as unlikely from the outset, as the Progressive Conservatives acclaimed Rick Hanson as a star candidate in the riding, just weeks after he'd retired from his post as the city's police chief.

Pundits said, in all likelihood, Hanson was being groomed for a spot in the Tory cabinet.

But Miranda said he didn't pay attention to the hoopla.

"I just kept that in mind and I didn't really think of who the contenders were," he said. "I just kept focused on what I had to offer."

When the dust settled Tuesday, he had exactly 100 more votes than Hanson, and was one of the bigger surprises on a night chock full of them.

In the inner-city Calgary-Buffalo riding, many had painted the race as a showdown between PC Terry Rock and Liberal David Khan, who'd been endorsed by outgoing Liberal MLA Kent Hehr.

Few saw NDP labour lawyer Kathleen Ganley having a shot. In the end, she netted nearly 1,000 more votes than her nearest rival.

"It's still all really sinking in," she said, later adding, "They (Rock and Khan) had definitely been ramping up for months for the campaign. I did feel like the newcomer." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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The journey has begun but is far from over.

Devon, left, and Cody Weston, cousins of Jessica Newman, and their mom Lynda Abell, have started a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for Newman's family after her body was discovered east of Airdrie on Monday. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Newman's family collecting money

SUPPORT

Crowdfunding effort aims to cover funeral, other expenses

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

Family members of Jessica Newman have started a crowdfunding campaign to support her family and three boys after her remains were discovered in a ditch east of Airdrie on Monday afternoon.

Newman's cousin, Devon Weston, said he wants to ensure his family doesn't have to worry about any financial burdens as they deal with the loss, since the death brings with it funeral, travel and a variety of other expenses.

"What I'm trying to do is just raise awareness and help support my family through this trying time," Weston said.

On Wednesday, just a day after the crowdfunding site was launched, more than $1,700 in donations had already come in and Weston said the support is overwhelming.

"It's just really touching to see that the community is just as touched as we are and everybody is chipping in," he said, noting they're trying to raise $10,000.

Newman, 24, was the mother of three young children who are currently living apart. Weston hopes the funds will help ensure the young brothers know each other as they get older.

"We want them to be a family," he said. "We want them to grow up as brothers."

For Jessica's mother Rhonda Stewart, the loss has been extremely difficult and she said the support is helping the family cope — financially and emotionally — with the loss.

"I'm so grateful that there's so many people that have come to help us," she said.

"Not only family and friends, but complete strangers that have stepped up to the plate and sent me messages and commented on her website."

With her husband unable to work due to brain cancer, and herself caring for four children, including Jessica's five-year-old son Carson, she said the monetary support is welcome.

"It's really nice to know that there are still good people out there," she said.

An autopsy was set to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday morning; Calgary police said work by the medical examiner was continuing.

While family has confirmed the remains are Newman's, police have not officially identified the body, nor have they ruled the death a homicide.

BACKGROUND

- Newman was last seen in the Forest Lawn area mid-March.
- Police told family that Newman's body appears to have been outside for roughly eight weeks.

CRIME

Strange man followed young girl: Police

Calgary police are asking for help from the public after a report that a vehicle followed a child in the community of Sundance on Wednesday.

According to a release, at roughly 8 a.m. an elementary-school-aged girl was seen walking backwards from a parked truck on her way to school.

An adult who knew the child witnessed the scene and said the girl appeared scared, so she drove her the rest of the way to school.

The child told the adult the truck had been parked at the same location at the same time near the intersection of Suncrest Way SE and Suncastle Drive SE six times in the last two weeks, noting the man appeared to be watching her walk to school.

Police describe the vehicle as a newer-model black Ford truck with side steps, a Calgary Flames logo in the rear window and Calgary Flames flags on the back-passenger windows.

Described as a white male in his mid-20s, the driver is also said to have red hair and a goatee. At the time of the incident, he was wearing a baseball cap.

Anyone with information about the vehicle or the driver is asked to contact the CPS non-emergency line at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers to report the info anonymously.
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The Golden Age Club has been located in the East Village Place building since 1984. METRO FILE

Residents rally for Golden Age Club

COMMUNITY HUB

Low-income seniors rely on subsidized club for socializing

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

East Village seniors and their supporters plan to march to city hall Thursday from the Golden Age Club, a social and recreational hub of the community that is set to close at the end of May.

Wendy Lees, who runs a visual art drop-in program at the club, said the goal of the rally is to "support East Village seniors programming and community space" and hopefully find a way to continue offering the same services and gathering place for area residents in a new location.

Exactly where or how remains an open question, but Coun. Druh Farrell previously told Metro the city is looking at "options" for filling the void that will be left when the club shuts down due to a complicated set of legal and financial troubles.

As Metro reported Sunday, many residents were angry to learn their treasured club, which opened in 1951 and has been located in East Village since 1984, was soon to close.

"The anger seems to have subsided a bit," Mike Lambert, who lives in a nearby affordable-housing complex for seniors, said Wednesday. "There are still people in that mode, but that's OK. Let them be like that."

Brian Tychonick of the East Village Neighbourhood Association said most of the seniors who live in the area survive on a "very limited fixed income," with many relying mainly or entirely on Canada Pension Plan benefits.

"Believe it or not, $10 is a lot of money to them," Tychonick said, adding that the club's $15 annual membership fee represented a "major outlay of cash" but one that's well worth it to access the programming and social opportunities it offered.

Lambert said many area residents are dejected and feel the club will simply be lost while others are cautiously optimistic that the same services will be made available in a new location.

BACKGROUND

The club operated with financial support from a variety of public agencies and private donors, and offered everything from art classes to fitness sessions as well as a place for informal social gatherings.

BEAKERHEAD

Wanted: Artists to take on a mushroom-brick installation

Calgary's infamous Beakerhead fall extravaganza is seeking a unique type of artist to take on a unique type of project: building a large installation strictly out of mushroom bricks.

And what are mushroom bricks, one might ask? They are exactly what they sound like — bricks made from organic mushrooms.

With the aim of discouraging dependencies on plastics and focusing on creative, environmentally friendly innovations, Beakerhead is working in conjunction with the Trico Charitable Foundation to build a mushroom-brick installation to be showcased during Beakerhead's September festivities.

Beakerhead representatives are calling for any artists or architects interested in taking on a mushroom-related endeavour to apply for the job. Invented by U.S.-based company Ecovative Design, mushroom bricks are made of a combination of mushrooms and agricultural waste.

What's been dubbed an "outdoor engineered art installation" will be constructed at a site not yet identified in Kensington, and will be unveiled Sept. 16. The deadline for applications to take on the project is May 24, and the winner will be announced June 10. METRO

MLA's photos under fire

FACEBOOK

Deborah Drever pulls social media accounts

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

One day after she painted a longtime Tory stronghold NDP orange, soon-to-be-sworn-in MLA Deborah Drever was fending off critics who took a gander through her social media accounts. By mid-morning, images pulled from her Facebook page were being circulated and sent to media outlets.

In one, dated May 31, 2014, Drever is seen flashing a peace sign next to a T-shirt that features a marijuana leaf and the words "Magic Weed."

In another, posted in 2010, a hand is seen giving the middle finger to the Canadian flag.

Drever did write in the comments under the photo, "OH JKJKJKJK LOVE CANADA!"

She couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday, but campaign manager Ron Hamelin said it wasn't Drever showing disrespect to the flag.

"On social media, you get tagged on pictures," he said.

The weed photo was merely Drever being "funny and silly," Hamelin said.

Asked about another image, in which Drever appears to have a Pabst Blue Ribbon box over her ahead, Hamelin said "again, personal accounts under attack."

"It's like you're not allowed to be funny and be happy and be a jokester, prankster," he said. "It's just something to try to discredit and steer away from the actual values and actual platform at hand."

Hamelin said the accounts were pulled because "we don't people to get the wrong impression." But political watchers have warned the NDP's surprising surge of support that saw the party capture 53 seats Tuesday could thrust some inexperienced candidates into the public spotlight. In a previous interview on the campaign trail, Drever told Metro she was a student in the social work program at Mount Royal University and balancing writing her end-of-semester exams with campaigning. In a post on her Facebook page last year, Drever ranted that she wanted to be done with school and was "sick of the service industry."

"People on their high horse because they are pissed off that this is the best job they will ever get because they don't have an education," she wrote, later adding, "Don't come to work with a complex because of you sh–y life decisions. Frigg off."

The Bow riding had been represented by the Tories since 1975 and few expected the seat would fall Tuesday.

David Stewart, a political scientist with the University of Calgary, said it's likely the NDP put some candidates on the ballot to ensure they had a presence in every one of Alberta's 87 ridings.

(It was done) without the expectation that they would actually win," he said. "But there is still some level of vetting. I don't think it goes to the level of checking out of all of their social media.

"It's something in the future that candidates need to be aware of."

New Calgary-Bow MLA Deborah Drever is seen in a Facebook photo that some have described as unbecoming of an elected representative. FACEBOOK

IN BRIEF

Recount in riding after Wildrose beats PC by 12

Election officials will be recounting votes in a southern Alberta rural riding. Wildrose candidate Dave Schneider beat incumbent Progressive Conservative Ian Donovan on Tuesday night by just 12 votes in the riding of Little Bow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victory bodes well for NDP elsewhere: Horgan

The historic election win by Alberta's NDP has left British Columbia's Opposition leader gushing and Premier Christy Clark searching for common ground.

"They made the choice and I think everybody around the country is going to respect that. She has every indication she wants to work with the rest of the premiers, whatever political stripe." said Clark.

B.C.'s Opposition NDP Leader John Horgan said he was ecstatic over Notley's win and said it will help federal NDP Leader Tom Mulcair in the fall federal election and B.C.'s NDP in two years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Are the PCs gone for good?

ELECTION AFTERMATH

'Schooled' Conservatives contemplate their future

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Tories packing up their campaign materials Wednesday talked of a tough road ahead after the party suffered a historic defeat at the hands of the Alberta NDP.

"If we learn the lessons the voters attempted to teach us yesterday, if we learn those lessons, there is a way back," said Ric McIver, one of eight Calgary seats that remained Progressive Conservative blue in Tuesday's election.

There is the potential of Calgary-Glenmore — which came out as a tie and was due for a recount — also being reclaimed by the party, but the result will still be a far cry from the 21 Calgary seats they had coming in.

There will be no Tory representation in Edmonton or in the rural south.

"What the voters did was they schooled us yesterday," McIver added.

The former cabinet minister, however, said he's not convinced the PCs will go the way of the Social Credit party, which ruled Alberta for decades but was bounced by the Tories in the early 1970s and never recovered.

First up will be finding a new leader as Jim Prentice suddenly resigned amid the shock of the Tory defeat. All of the ballots in his Calgary-Foothills riding, where he was eventually named the victor, hadn't even been counted when Prentice took the stage to announce his resignation as both leader and MLA.

"Though I am personally saddened by the decision, the voters are always right in our democracy and so it is this evening," he said.

There was one Tory with at least some reason to celebrate, however. Richard Gotfried will be the party's lone newcomer to the legislature, as he squeaked out a win in Calgary-Fish Creek, which had previously been represented by the Wildrose.

Still, Gotfried admitted his victory was "bittersweet," and now efforts would focus on a push to "rebuild brand PC."

"This is a chance for us to show our resiliency," he said. "For us to show the core values and principles, which I see in the PC party, which is an entrepreneurial spirit, prairie work ethic and an inclusive society.

"Those principles are strong and are alive."

Lori Williams, a political scientist with Mount Royal University, said she's not convinced the PCs are verging on extinction.

She said they could become a strong centre-right option and believes Alberta's political swings will occur more frequently now.

"My sense is that we're getting a little bit of a shift in the dynamics of democracy," she said.

Williams said she believes Calgary-Greenway MLA Manmeet Bhullar, who was re-elected Tuesday, could be an "extraordinarily strong candidate" for the Tory leadership.

McIver, meanwhile, did challenge Prentice in a party leadership contest last fall, finishing second.

Asked if he would take another shot at the top Tory job, he responded, "We'll see."

During the interview Tuesday, he did borrow a line from his leadership campaign when asked about carrying on representing his constituents.

"They're still my bosses," he said.

Volunteers joined former Calgary police chief Rick Hanson to help clear the lawn signs, buttons and furniture from his Calgary-Cross campaign office, Wednesday. Hanson resigned from his post to run for the Tories in Calgary-Cross, but was defeated in Tuesday's election.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

REMAINING TORIES

Ric McIver — Calgary-Hays
Rick Fraser — Calgary-South East
Richard Gotfried — Calgary-Fish Creek
Dave Rodney — Calgary-Lougheed
Sandra Jansen — Calgary-North West
Mike Ellis — Calgary-West
Manmeet Bhullar — Calgary-Greenway
Richard Starke — Vermilion-Lloydminster
Wayne Drysdale — Grande Prairie-Wapiti

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

CED prepares to work with NDP

Hours after the Alberta NDP earned a historic majority government, Calgary Economic Development and Mayor Naheed Nenshi met with local business leaders to discuss what it means for the city's economy.

"We pulled together a group of CEOs primarily related to the energy industry, some with financial institutions," CED chairman Steve Allan said after the "roundtable" discussion on Wednesday morning.

There were a lot of concerns at first, Allan said, about the direction the left-leaning government would take the province, and a general sense of: "Holy smokes, what do we do now?"

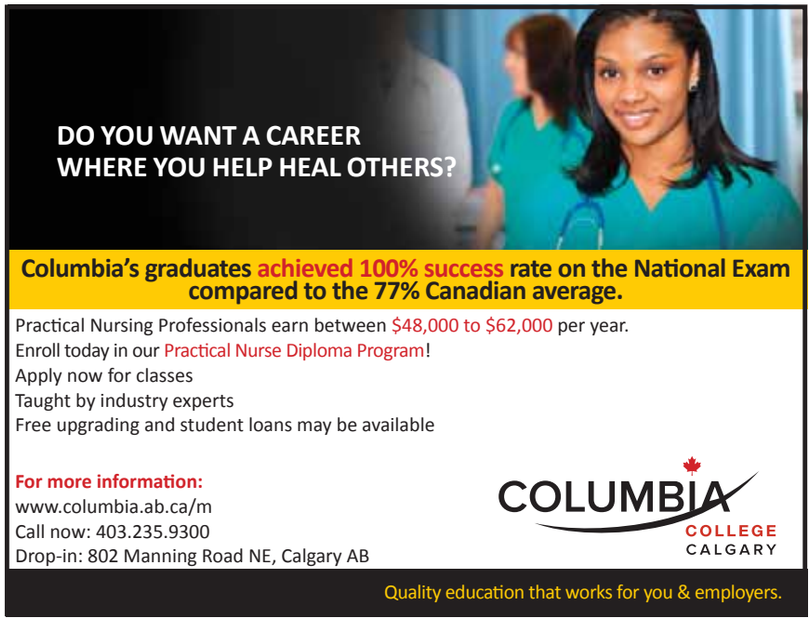
"The biggest thing about change is uncertainty," he said. "That's what worries people."

But Allan's own take is that change also presents opportunities, a message he shared with the CEOs.

"We talked about the need to accept the fact that there's going to be an increase in corporate tax, and that there would be a royalty review," Allan said. "But let's embrace these things and work with her and help her understand how Calgary works, how industry works."

Allan also said he was encouraged by NDP Leader Rachel Notley's victory speech Tuesday night, which touched on a number of topics that align with CED's own strategy for economic development — things like innovation, education, "purposeful diversification," and building better communities.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO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Wet, heavy snow fell on leafy branches across Calgary in September 2014, downing hundreds of thousands of branches throughout the city. METRO FILE

More needed to deal with tree damage

CITY

It will take 3 or 4 years, $35M to finish project: Manager

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

It will take another three, maybe four years and at least $35 million to deal with the lingering damage to Calgary's trees from last September's freak snowstorm, according to the manager of the recovery project.

Some 250,000 damaged trees on public property still need to pruned, Nico Bernard told members of city council Monday, and city crews hope to tackle about 80,000 this year.

"That's more or less double from what we typically do," he said, referring to normal urban canopy maintenance activities.

"And then we need to plant all the trees that we couldn't recover or couldn't save from the storm," he added.

The public trees, however, represent only a fraction of those damaged when thick, heavy snow blanketed Calgary last September, weighing down leafy branches and snapping limbs.

By city estimates there are another 1.5 million trees on private property, many of which are also in need of pruning to maintain their health and long-term survival.

"So we've got a responsibility to educate citizens and to help citizens look after their trees," Bernard said.

Calgary has budgeted $11.9 million in 2015, $11.8 million in 2016, and $11.8 million in 2017 for the tree recovery project.

The money is to come from reserve funds and the city is looking to recover costs from the Alberta government through its Disaster Recovery Program or "other eligible funds," according to a report.

> **"So we've got a responsibility to educate citizens and to help citizens look after their trees."**
> Nico Bernard

Coun. Evan Woolley described the September snowstorm as a "tragic incident" that threatens the treed environment the city has worked over decades to foster.

"I always fear that we're going to wake up in 10 years and neighbourhoods are going to look like they did when Calgary first began," he said.

Woolley also said the disaster-related pruning and planting should be done in concert with regular life-cycle maintenance in order to ensure Calgary has "stronger, better, and more" urban forest in the future.

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ENVIRONMENT

Lost city trees could take decades to recover: Expert

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

A downed branch in Elbow Park is one of many distressed trees in the city after a September snowstorm ripped through 50 per cent of the city's tree cover. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Thirty years or more — that's how long Dr. Mike Quinn, an expert from Mount Royal University said it could take for Calgarian trees to recover from Snowtember.

After the September storm damaged and eliminated almost 50 per cent of Calgary's tree cover the city has been working to prune, clean and mulch the wreckage — but as the cleanup continues and replanting begins — the City says the full effects of branches and trunks lost won't be known for years.

"It's going to be a slow recovery process, probably in the order of 20 to 30 years before we get back what we lost," said Quinn, Director and Talisman Energy Chair of Environmental Sustainability. "Just in terms of things like leaf area, it's going to take a lot longer than that — obviously if you lose a 100-year-old tree it takes 100 years to get that back."

Quinn said some of the impact will be seen immediately, especially in the city's bird population, who depended on the leafy branches as cover and space to nest.

"You remove all of that material, and most of it's from the tops and the big branches of some of our biggest trees," said Quinn. "When you take that out … it's analogous to taking a bunch of streets out of a city, you just removed space and availability to … wildlife in general."

Trees also act as a cooling system in the city, which Quinn said can heat up in the summertime thanks to the plethora of concrete and buildings.

"All of that stuff holds the heat, and trees tend to provide kind of a natural air conditioning effect, so losing all those tree tops will have an effect as well."

Quinn said trees are part of urban infrastructure — just as roads, sewers and water mains are critical parts of what make a city work, trees also play a role in the urban harmony.

"Trees are part of an ecological infrastructure, and if we've lost 50 per cent of our ecological infrastructure all of those things that trees do are not going to be done this year," he said.

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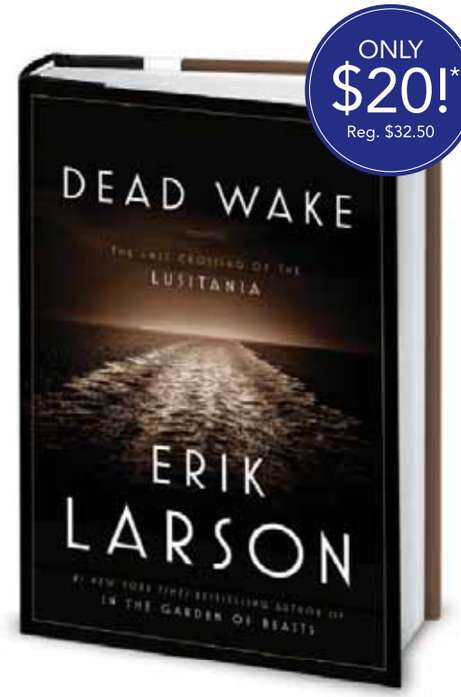
LUSITANIA SUNK

100 YEARS AGO TODAY

ON MAY 7, 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed the luxury ocean liner *Lusitania*. It is a story that many of us think we know but don't, and Erik Larson switches between hunter and hunted to show the array of forces both grand and achingly small—hubris, a chance fog, a closely guarded secret, and more—which converged to produce one of the great disasters of history.



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In front of her burned and damaged Lexus, Sumaiya Nazim says she's happy that Mr. Lube has taken responsibility for a misplaced rag that caused her car to catch fire last week. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Vehicle fire prompts Mr. Lube safety review

INVESTIGATION

Business accepts full blame for misplaced rag

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

Almost two dozen Mr. Lube locations in Alberta and Saskatchewan are reviewing their key safety procedures after a misplaced rag caused a car fire in Calgary last week.

The incident occurred at around 8:30 p.m. on April 28, when a rag left inside the engine of Sumaiya Nazim's Lexus caught fire, causing damage to the engine and the hood of the vehicle following a trip for service at a Royal Oak Mr. Lube location.

Shortly after Metro reported on the story, a representative from Prairie Lube Ltd., which operates 23 Mr. Lube locations across Alberta and Saskatchewan, said they had accepted responsibility for the fire.

"Our area managers visited the customer this morning to assess the damage and rectify the situation," said a statement sent to Metro on April 30.

BACKGROUND

Nazim's husband noticed smoke rising from the hood of the car while she was driving near their home on April 28. Parts of melted and burned rag were present in the engine.

"We have accepted responsibility in this matter and have had the vehicle towed, a rental car arranged, and will be covering any and all vehicle repair costs related to this incident."

Will Taylor with Prairie Lube Ltd., said managers at the store felt terrible about the situation and noted occurrences like this are rare.

Nazim said she was pleased with how quickly Mr. Lube addressed her concerns, but noted she's waiting to get her car back before saying she's completely satisfied with the response.

"I am relived that at least they have responded quick and they have taken the responsibility and they're working on it," she said, noting she's happy the locations are undergoing a review.

"As soon as I get the car back and I have it inspected at the dealership, I'll feel a lot better."

ROADS

Southwest crash sends 4 to hospital

Speed and alcohol appear to be factors in a Tuesday night crash that sent four people to hospital with serious injuries.

Now, city police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the crash to come forward.

At 11:30 p.m., a BMW was driving southbound on Crowchild Trail SW approaching the 50 Avenue interchange when it lost control and went off the road.

In total, there were four occupants in the vehicle.

The driver and one of the passengers were thrown from the vehicle during the crash and received what police are calling "major injuries" and the two remaining passengers, whom police say were both wearing seat belts, were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The two remaining passengers had to be extricated from the vehicle.

Anyone with information should contact 403-567-4000 or Crime Stoppers to report the info anonymously.

METRO

FIREARMS

RCMP officer faces gun possession raps

An Alberta RCMP officer has been charged with several firearm-related offences.

The agency that investigates major incidents involving police says it started an investigation into serious allegations against a police officer and member of the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP detachment.

Search warrants were executed at the police officer's home on April 23.

Constable Stephen Hudson is charged with the unlawful possession of a Bushmaster .223-calibre assault rifle, a restricted weapon, and the careless storage of that assault rifle.

He is also accused of unlawful possession of a .22 calibre rifle and its careless storage.

Hudson is also charged with unlawful transfer of his RCMP 9-mm service pistol and its improper storage.

Police also seized several illegal cartridge magazines.

Hudson was brought before a Justice of the Peace and has been released on his own recognizance with conditions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Preemie's survival a ray of hope

HEALTH

Born at 27 weeks, now 9-month-old baby doing well

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

"He might not make it."

These words were uttered repeatedly by hospital staff to 20-year-old Katrina Leon after she gave birth to a baby boy weighing less than a pound.

"I kept being told he wasn't going to survive … hearing that as a mom is heartbreaking," Leon said.

Admitted to the Foothills Medical Centre at 23 weeks with preeclampsia — high blood pressure during pregnancy — Leon spent a gruelling four weeks bedridden until doctors were forced to perform a C-section.

"I was kept in the hospital and wasn't allowed to leave. The only place I was allowed to go was the washroom," Leon recalled. "I started getting really sick. My platelets starting dropping and I almost had a stroke. That's when they felt he had to come out."

Born at 27 weeks, little Zander Bennett underwent three surgeries and spent 180 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) before he was able to go home. With typical pregnancies going to 40 weeks, life-threatening infections and underdeveloped organs are just a few complications extremely premature babies face.

> **I want other moms to know there's a light at the end of the tunnel.**
> Katrina Leon

Leon said she was told by nurses he was one of the smallest babies they'd seen survive.

"I remember walking through the NICU and seeing all these little babies hooked up to beeping machines," Leon said. "It was really scary and he was just so tiny. He still is tiny."

Little Zander Bennett was born extremely premature, weighing less than a pound. CONTRIBUTED

Now nine months old and 10 pounds, Leon said Zander has upgraded from a diaper not even big enough to fit a doll, to Build-A-Bear outfits.

Although Zander is still on oxygen and is only six months old in terms of development, Leon said she hopes her story will help give other mothers in similar situations courage that their baby can survive.

"I've wanted to reach out for a long time, but I never really had the courage," Leon said. "When I first had my son, I didn't think there was any hope. I want other moms to know there's a light at the end of the tunnel."

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City picks up HandiBus

TRANSPORTATION

Calgary Transit hopes to make transition seamless

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

After months of negotiation, the City of Calgary and the Amalgamated Transit Union 583 have decided to take over operation of HandiBus.

Late into 2014 the future of Calgary HandiBus was uncertain. In November, alongside HandiBus chair Jim Brown, Calgary Transit announced the organization's business model was unsustainable.

On Wednesday, operators and customers could breathe a sigh of relief after the union and the city announced the accessible service would now operate under the Calgary Transit umbrella.

"It's been a little bit stressful, I think after the vote yesterday everybody's eased off a little bit, knowing what's happening for their future and I think it's a good step," said Ab Heski, who has worked with HandiBus as an operator for about 23 years.

He added that operators and customers often form friendships. They confide in their drivers and interact with them on a daily basis.

"They've already expressed a lot of gratitude for having us as a service provider and didn't want anything really to change," he said. "They like seeing the same operators, I don't believe that is going to change at all."

Calgary Transit hopes there won't be many changes to service. Doug Morgan, director of Calgary Transit, hopes the amalgamation goes unnoticed by customers, except for minor bus branding changes.

"We don't see any impact whatsoever as far as additional expenses to bringing this crew over to Calgary Transit, so we're pretty excited to provide the same level of service," Morgan said. "They've been doing great work in Calgary for over 40 years and they are going to continue to do that."

Ab Heski, a HandiBus driver, said operators and customers often form friendships. HELEN PIKE/METRO

In its time HandiBus made up a third of accessible transit's fleet, carrying around 35,000 passengers a month. Access Calgary as a whole continues to serve 15,000 registered customers.

ENVIRONMENT

110 years of Arbour Day in Calgary

Roughly 110 years after it was first celebrated, Arbour Day in Calgary continues to grow.

On Thursday starting at 10 a.m., students from Grant MacEwan Elementary School will be planting an oak tree on the school grounds to celebrate 110 years of urban forestry.

According to a release from the City of Calgary, Arbour Day has been celebrated in Calgary since 1905, with the aim of honouring and highlighting the importance of trees and green spaces. In fact, Arbour Day is the longest running civic greening project in Calgary.

Calgary is one of many cities across North America taking part.

Several officials will be on hand at the event, including officials from the City of Calgary parks department, and Grant MacEwan School.

METRO

425,000

It's estimated 425,000 tree seedlings have been given to Grade 1 students for Arbour Day in Calgary since 1958.

IN BRIEF

Trial of lane reversals on 5 Avenue downtown set

Driving downtown is set to change next month when the city institutes a lane reversal on 5 Avenue SW, turning the roadway from a one-way to a two-way route for part of the day.

The city plans to release more details on Thursday, but the general idea is that during the afternoon rush hour, two westbound lanes would open on the normally all-eastbound route, between 7 Street SW and the west end of downtown.

The city plans this as a trial project to last about six months.

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Lewis Liski's documentary lets viewers look through the lens of emerging artists in Calgary. JENNY BONAR

Can Calgary become a vibrant arts scene?

ALTERNATIVE CURRENCY

Documentary by local artist examines our culture gap

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

It's a question constantly circulated throughout the arts community: Is there hope for emerging artists in Calgary?

This dilemma is at the heart of local artist Lewis Liski's documentary, Alternative Currency, which examines the struggles artists face as they transition from post-secondary to the arts scene in Calgary.

"It deals with this idea of coming out of an institution where you're very supported, and then you enter into this community where you're maybe not as supported," Liski explained.

During the city's reign as the Cultural Capital of Canada in 2012, Liski asked a handful of artists and working professionals about their strategies for integrating into a city where there seems to be a significant cultural gap.

"I focused on how emerging artists and people like myself fit in. Or don't fit in..." he said. "There are lots of things happening here, but there's still this gap between the general public and the arts community."

This phenomenon is what one local artist in the film said characterizes Calgary as a "doughnut city."

"It's the idea that everyone works downtown, then vacates downtown at the end of the day," Liski explained.

"I don't know how you make that a more important conversation, but I do think there needs to be more discussion about it."

Lewis's documentary then poses another question: Can Calgary become a contemporary art centre?

Judging by the success of such major arts events as Nuit Blanche and Wreck City, Liski said he thinks with more awareness and restructuring outdated artist-run-centre models, traditionally conservative Calgary could evolve into a vibrant arts scene.

"It's obvious people care and want to see things happening here.

"But I just don't know how you make it a more daily thing that people are aware of and contribute to," Liski added.

"We just need to work together as a city to figure out what the next direction of these things are."

> **There are a lot of things happening here, but there's still this gap between the general public and the arts community.**
> Lewis Liski

BACKGROUND

TRUCK Contemporary Art is hosting a release party for the documentary Alternative Currency, which is now available for purchase, on Friday.

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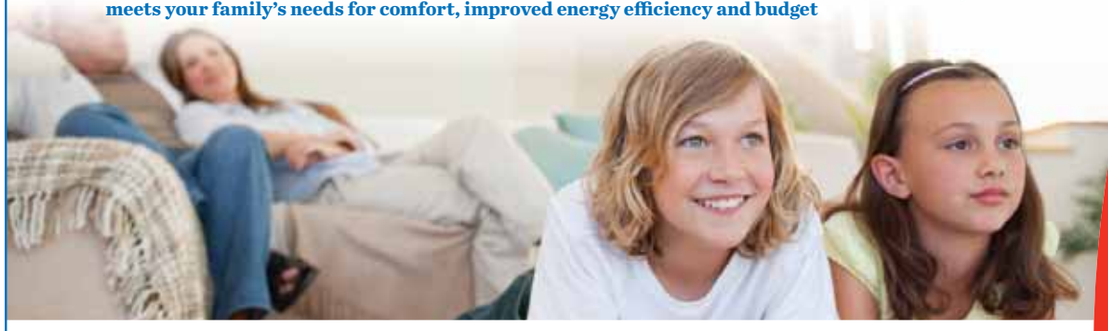

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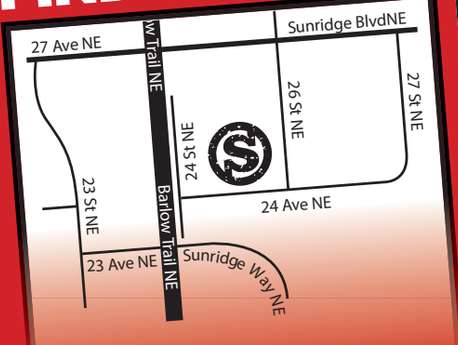

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THE REACTION

Stunned Conservatives downplay NDP victory

The Conservative caucus room was described as a morgue Wednesday as federal MPs grappled with political mortality after the New Democrats broke the conservative movement's four-decade grip on Alberta politics.

While they sought to downplay the notion that the NDP upset in Alberta is an omen for this fall's federal election, many acknowledged the playing field for that campaign has changed.

So-called safe seats just can't be considered safe anymore, said Deepak Obhrai, who has sat in the House of Commons as a Calgary Conservative since 1997 and was re-elected in 2011 with 67 per cent of the vote.

TORY SEATS

The Tories hold 26 of the 28 federal seats in Alberta, though redistribution means there will be 34 up for grabs this fall.

In the last six elections, he didn't face a serious challenge from the NDP, but with all four provincial seats within his riding now held by that party, he expects the next campaign will be different.

"More, stronger candidates will look at the results, so we expect stronger (NDP) candidates," Obhrai said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal NDP celebrate orange wave in Alberta

Gleeful federal New Democrats seized the coattails of their victorious Alberta cousins, but while the two parties share the same family tree, the Prairie and Ottawa branches have fundamental differences.

For one, experts point to the roots of the Prairie New Democrats, which they say come from the anti-centralist mindset that dominated Canadian politics for much of the 20th century.

The Alberta NDP also hails from a province where the economy is dominated by the pollution-heavy oil industry, which has been a bull's-eye for criticism from federal New Democrats, said a political scientist who has studied Alberta politics for decades.

"The areas of difficulty (between the two NDP parties) would not be huge, but ... there could well be some," said Allan Tupper of the University of British Columbia.

Differences between the parties, however, didn't stop the federal NDP on Wednesday from inviting news cameras into its caucus chamber, where chanting MPs celebrated the Alberta win in the name of all New Democrats.

Federal NDP Leader Tom Mulcair tried to blur any lines of separation. "We've all got a spring in our step today," he told reporters in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Win could give party nationwide momentum

The Alberta election victory by Rachel Notley had New Democrats across the country talking Wednesday, but the only other NDP premier cautioned against reading too much into the party's success.

"Every province has different issues, although we all are focusing on the economy right now," Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said.

But Selinger and Paul Thomas, of the University of Manitoba, feel that the victory over the Progressive Conservatives, who had been in power for 44 years, is bound to help by showing the NDP can represent a wider range of the population than many might think.

It's a boost for a party that has experienced some losses in recent years. Nova Scotia's NDP government was defeated in 2013 and there have been poor federal byelection results.

"It means that the national party can say, after a series of byelection setbacks, 'You know, we have got some momentum behind us,'" said Thomas, professor emeritus of political science.

He suggested the win should energize NDP politicians, volunteers and staff at the federal level and in other provinces by showing that if the party can win in conservative Alberta, almost anything may be possible. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"If we learn the lessons the voters attempted to teach us yesterday ... there is a way back."

Ric McIver, Calgary MLA and former Tory leadership candidate

"It was ... like a morgue."

Justice Minister Peter MacKay's description of the mood among federal Tories on Wednesday

"This isn't a massive shift to the left.... A lot of people who voted Wildrose last time voted NDP."

Lori Williams, political scientist at Mount Royal University

Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley reacts in Edmonton on Tuesday after being elected the province's premier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LEADERSHIP: Notley's next 90 days

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Newly elected Alberta Premier Rachel Notley must do three things once she's in office:

1 Pick a cabinet

Notley was elected with 52 or 53 colleagues, depending on the outcome of a deadlocked riding in Calgary, but only three of her colleagues have been an MLA before.

The current cabinet is 19 ministers, but Notley can reshape hers anyway she chooses. In addition to looking for strong ministers, she will also have to include people from across the province.

Despite the relative inexperience of her caucus, Notley said Wednesday she won't have a problem putting together a governing team.

"I am really excited about my caucus in so many ways," she said. "I have far too many people who are skilled to select from."

Notley said her party is bringing in a lot of diversity to the table that will be good for the new cabinet.

"We have people from all walks of life, and I am very confident we will be able to put together a very capable cabinet."

2 Budget

In many ways, Notley's campaign was about running against the spending cuts and other measures that Premier Jim Prentice proposed in his budget this spring.

Notley promised to put in force the corporate tax increases that Prentice refused to implement and to restore funding he cut from health care and post-secondary education.

She said that during the transition her team would work to figure out how much of the budget can now be changed.

"We're going to be getting advice on that in the next few days, in terms of how quickly we can make those changes."

3 Soothe the oil patch

Alberta Energy companies saw stock prices drop based on the election's outcome.

Notley said she hopes to meet with a number of groups and business leaders to assure them there is no reason for alarm. Global investors would see soon enough that the sky isn't falling, she added.

MAKING HISTORY: Welcoming a new wave of female politicians

GENDER

25 elected NDP candidates in Alberta are women

Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

For a province once known as the home of the "old boys' club," Alberta now has women in record numbers in the provincial caucus.

Premier-designate Rachel Notley was quick to note that shift in gender representation in her victory speech.

"I haven't done the math yet … but what I think is true is we have elected the most women to caucus in the history of Canada … so that's kinda cool," she said.

Out of 52 or 53 NDP candidates elected across the province, 25 are female.

A tie in Calgary-Glenmore between NDP candidate Anam Kazim and Progressive Conservative incumbent Linda Johnson could bring that number to 26, once Elections Alberta completes the official recount.

What's remarkable about the winning women candidates is that often, women aren't putting themselves forward to compete on the ballot, making it harder to get equal representation in politics, says Lana Cuthbertson, chairwoman of Equal Voice Alberta North.

47%

According to unofficial Elections Alberta results, 47 per cent of the winning NDP candidates were women.

"It's really about getting women running in the first place. The NDP made sure a lot of women did that, and the results speak for themselves," she said.

This "historic moment" for Alberta wasn't lost on the rest of the country, something that should be noted by other political parties, said Diane O'Reggio, executive director with Women's Legal Education and Action Fund in Toronto.

"To have a large majority of women in the legislature will be a benefit to not only women in Alberta but women across the country," she said.

NEW MLAs HAVE SOME QUIRKS

Several Alberta NDP MLAs who claimed seats in Tuesday's vote are attracting attention for their lack of political experience and for their quirks. Left: newly elected MLA Thomas Dang is a 20-year-old computer-science student. Dang says he has only worked full-time in the summer to pay for his studies but he hopes his example will bring younger people into politics. Right: Shaye Anderson shows off his impressive beard, which has caused a sensation on social media. CONTRIBUTED

COMPARISON

N.S. knows this left-hand turn

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Although acting NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald draws little comparison between the New Democrats' earlier win of a majority government in Nova Scotia and the party's recent victory out west, she believes both happened within a similar financial framework.

MacDonald said the Darrell Dexter government came to power in 2009 at a time when the province's revenues were dropping, just as Alberta's oil prices are currently plummeting.

"We came into government right after the financial crisis and the big meltdown," she said.

The challenge once faced by Nova Scotia's former New Democratic leadership to fund public services such as education and health care with low revenues is now on Alberta's premier-elect Rachel Notley and her new NDP government after winning a majority, MacDonald said.

In 2009, the NDP won its first majority government in the Nova Scotia, subsequently only lasting one term after a decisive loss to the Liberals in 2013.

Falling revenues resulted in having to make some difficult decisions, MacDonald said, such as raising the HST.

Despite the fact Alberta is a considerably richer province than Nova Scotia, MacDonald said Wednesday, the NDP is stepping into a familiar financial climate where service demands are high and incomes are scarce.

That insecurity creates a mounting public pressure on a new incoming government to deliver results, she added.

"We live in a world that expects instant results and government doesn't turn on a dime. It was a challenge for us and it will be a challenge for them."

The main lesson to take away from Nova Scotia's short NDP rule is to stay connected with the constituents, according to Halifax's NDP MP.

"They were so busy governing that they forgot to communicate with people," Megan Leslie said.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Notley vows change for First Nations

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

Just as Rachel Notley took the stage in Edmonton Tuesday night, Athabasca Chipewyan Chief Allan Adam stopped her.

"I had a chance to acknowledge her and gave her my congratulations," Adam said Wednesday. "I basically mentioned, 'Don't forget to mention the First Nations in your speech.'"

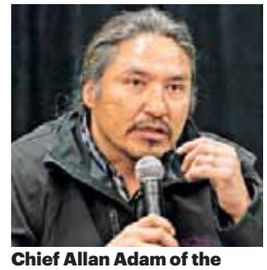
Notley didn't forget. She described her win as a call to "be better neighbours and better partners" with indigenous people, adding: "I'm looking forward to consulting with you and learning from you."

Her words — and the culture of change they suggest for a province fuelled by natural resources — reverberated through First Nations in Alberta Wednesday.

The oilsands and the natural gas industry are Alberta's central economic engines, built on industry gaining access to traditional indigenous lands and the resources they contain. Alberta has long worked to honour its often-competing obligations — to protect First Nation treaty rights while also allowing industry access to resources.

The results have been fraught with disputes.

Bill Gallagher, author of Resource Rulers, offers an in-depth look at how First Nations are increasingly successful in court in resource access battles, said Notley's victory is a rebuke to Jim Prentice and the PC Party's approach to relations with First Nations, who increasingly control natural resources.



Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gallagher said there was much hope Prentice could shift the relationship when he took office, but it evaporated quickly.

"He drew another lawsuit from the Athabasca Cree in his first 100 days (in office)," Gallagher said. "Talking the talk, he gets high marks. Walking the walk, he didn't deliver."

Notley, on the other hand, is "on message and a quick learner," Gallagher said, adding that her tone bodes well for her fixing the relationship between Alberta and its nearly 40 First Nations.

Adam said the relationship with Alberta "was always on a rocky edge, an adversarial combat position." As a result, he said, that relationship often went to court to resolve things.

But after Notley's win, he said he's hopeful for a change.

"We will be looking for ways to work with the province rather than take them to court. It's a win-win situation."

BUSINESS

Oilpatch, Bay Street 'shocked' by NDP win

The new reality of an orange-tinged Alberta was beginning to sink in across the oilpatch and Bay Street on Wednesday and, though there were some jitters, many are awaiting more details before they pass judgment.

The NDP's election victory stunned Sonny Mottahed, president and CEO of Black Spruce Merchant Capital in Calgary.

"I'm pretty shocked," he said. "There's been quite a bit of chatter this morning about capital already looking at a way to invest outside of Alberta just across borders into B.C. and Saskatchewan."

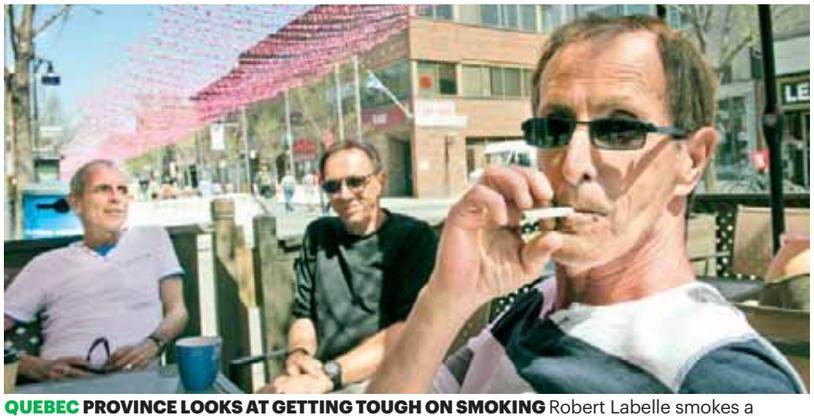
The NDP has said it would raise corporate taxes to 12 per cent from 10 per cent and examine whether Albertans are getting their fair share of royalties.

The last time Alberta increased royalties, under former premier Ed Stelmach in 2007, there was an uproar from the industry and the changes were rolled back. At the time, the global economic downturn was just taking hold and producers were concerned the royalty increase would only compound their woes.

12%

The NDP has said it would raise corporate taxes to 12 per cent from 10 per cent.

Energy stocks were hurting on Wednesday. The group as a whole was off about 2.75 per cent. Major oilsands producer Cenovus Energy Inc. was down six per cent, while Suncor Energy Inc. and Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. were down about three per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS



QUEBEC PROVINCE LOOKS AT GETTING TOUGH ON SMOKING Robert Labelle smokes a cigarette as his friends Gilles Garand, left, and Michel Casey, centre, look on Wednesday in Montreal. The Liberals tabled Bill 44 on Tuesday, which would put an end to smoking on restaurant and bar patios. Some bar owners are worried that the new rules will result in clients opting to stay home at a time when business is already slumping. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWFOUNDLAND, NOVA SCOTIA AND MANITOBA

Suspicious packages sent to courts

Some court buildings in two Atlantic provinces dealt with suspicious packages on Wednesday, the latest in a series of similar incidents.

Police in Newfoundland say a total of five suspicious packages were reviewed without incident.

In Nova Scotia, RCMP said court buildings in Sydney, Yarmouth, Digby, Port Hawkesbury and Truro had suspicious packages delivered or intercepted before delivery Wednesday.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Boyd Merrill says the packages in Newfoundland were reported in Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander, Stephenville, Clarenville and Grand Bank.

The RCMP say none of the packages have so far posed a risk to the public.

Two more packages forced the evacuation of the provincial Supreme Court building in St. John's and the Danny Williams Building, a court complex in Corner Brook.

Packages were received April 8 at Manitoba provincial court buildings in Winnipeg, Brandon, Morden and Minnedosa, all of which tested negative for dangerous substances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Omar Khadr rejects terrorism, al-Qaida

RELEASE

Former Guantanamo inmate opens up in interview

Former Guantanamo Bay inmate Omar Khadr still suffers nightmares of the firefight in which he was grievously wounded, and still isn't entirely sure what happened that fateful day, but says he wants no part of violent extremism.

The information — a rare insight into Khadr's views in his own words — is contained in an extensive interview he did recently with a prison psychologist in support of his successful bid to be reclassified as a minimum-security inmate.

"You shouldn't distort things to appease others or to suit your own agenda. I don't believe in al-Qaida killing innocents to further their belief," Khadr says.

"I hope there won't be this terrorism nonsense; I'm not going to get involved."

American soldiers captured Khadr, then 15, in the bombed-out ruins of a compound in Afghanistan following a brutal four-hour battle in July 2002. He had gaping wounds in his back, shrapnel in his eyes.

Khadr says he's still not sure exactly what went down in the firefight that left U.S. special-forces soldier Sgt. Chris Speer dead and Sgt. Layne Morris blinded in one eye.

"I heard Americans. I heard shooting. I was scared. I had a hand grenade. I threw it over my back and it exploded. I wanted to scare them away. I wasn't thinking about the consequences. After that, I was shot," he says.

"I have nightmares of the firefight. Sometimes I can't run away in the dreams."

Following his capture, the Toronto-born Khadr was taken to Bagram and then shipped to Guantanamo Bay, where he remained for a decade. In 2010, he pleaded guilty to five war crimes before a discredited U.S. military commission, including murder for Speer's death and spying. Even so, he says, he clings to the hope it wasn't him that killed Speer.

> **"I don't believe in al-Qaida killing innocents to further their belief.**
> Omar Khadr

"I still take responsibility," he says. "If I did kill (Speer), that would be a very sad thing."

The documents, filed in the Alberta Court of Appeal, are part of Khadr's bid for bail while he appeals his war-crimes conviction in the United States.

The court will rule Thursday whether to grant the federal government's request to stay an earlier ruling that he should be allowed out. A ruling in his favour could see him leave prison for the first time in almost 13 years under several restrictions that include wearing a tracking device.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Suspended senator Mike Duffy leaves the courthouse in Ottawa on Wednesday. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dog story pooched

MIKE DUFFY TRIAL

Two witness testimonies don't back Crown claims

An allegation made by the Crown in the earliest hours of Sen. Mike Duffy's trial appears to be on uncertain ground following the testimony of a pair of the prosecution's own witnesses.

Crown attorney Mark Holmes said in his opening statement last month that Duffy and his wife had travelled on the public purse in July 2010 to meet with then-MP Dean Del Mastro and go to a dog show in Peterborough, Ont.

"They arrange to acquire a puppy and drive home. That is portrayed as public business," Holmes said on April 7.

"It's in effect a shopping trip."

That particular travel claim earned Duffy a breach of trust and fraud charge — two of the 31 charges to which the suspended senator has pleaded not guilty.

But two of the witnesses subpoenaed by the Crown to talk about the Peterborough travel did not directly corroborate the "shopping trip" part of the allegation.

First, dog show organizer Louise Lang said that she had exchanged niceties with Duffy and his wife Heather at the dog show, but beyond that did not know what they had been up to.

On Wednesday, the court heard from former dog breeder Barbara Thompson, on the phone from New Brunswick. Thompson said that the Duffys had purchased a Kerry Blue Terrier from her in January 2011, after coming to see the puppy the previous November.

"Heather and Mike Duffy never, ever got a dog from you at the Peterborough dog show?" asked defence lawyer Donald Bayne.

"No they didn't," responded Thompson.

"And you never, ever met them at Peterborough dog show?"

"No I did not," she replied.

Thompson made a vague reference to Duffy perhaps having met with a Quebec dog breeder in Peterborough, but she herself was not there.

The court also heard Wednesday morning from broadcaster and columnist Ezra Levant, who said he wrote two or three non-partisan speeches for Duffy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **They arranged to acquire a puppy and drive home. That is portrayed as public business. It's in effect a shopping trip.**
> Crown attorney Mark Holmes

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sex discrimination at aboriginal fishery

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that a Nova Scotia aboriginal community discriminated against a female member by denying her work in the local fishing industry because of her gender.

The tribunal decision found that Stacey Marshall Tabor encountered discriminatory behaviour on the Millbrook First Nation for several years due to the fact that she was a woman.

The decision found that Tabor was frequently passed over for fishing boat positions in favour of male candidates, some of whom were less qualified than she was.

The tribunal also said Tabor was subjected to derogatory remarks, citing an instance when a senior band member said "the only place for women's breasts on a boat was on the bow as a figurehead."

The tribunal says the First Nation provided inconsistent and unreliable evidence to refute Tabor's claims and ultimately ruled that her complaints were substantiated.

According to testimony accepted by the tribunal, Tabor then expressed an interest in taking on more demanding fishing jobs, but was told she lacked qualifications. Months later, the decision says, that same work was offered to Tabor's husband despite the fact that his only fishery experience was "preparing gear and painting buoys."

Tabor did eventually secure fishing jobs, but the tribunal ruling said her work history was interrupted by pregnancy and injury.

She then went through a three-year period during which her applications for fishing work were denied despite her Master Limited certificate and fishing experience.

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Candidate suspended for threatening to shoot rival

U.K. ELECTION

Robert Blay recorded by undercover reporter

Britain's political leaders visited factories, farms, supermarkets and schools Wednesday on the final day of campaigning before an election predicted to be excruciatingly close and frustratingly indecisive.

The election race drew to a bumpy close for the U.K. Independence Party (UKIP), which suspended a candidate for making remarks about shooting his Conservative opponent in the head.

Robert Blay, who was running in the southern English seat of North East Hampshire, was recorded by an undercover reporter saying he would "put a bullet between (the) eyes" of Conservative candidate Ranil Jayawardena if Jayawardena became prime minister.

The Daily Mirror ran footage of Blay making the comments and saying Jayawardena, who has Sri Lankan heritage, was "not British enough to be in our Parliament."

"We've suspended him immediately, which is the right thing to do, and we do have a history of getting rid of people when they do something wrong very quickly indeed," said UKIP deputy chief Paul Nuttall.

Hampshire police said they were reviewing the comments as part of "initial inquiries" but added that no one had been arrested.

It is the latest in a string of embarrassing comments by members of UKIP, which has seen support grow for its anti-European Union stance and hopes to win a handful of seats on Thursday.

A member of the public walks past a betting shop window with a display for the general election in Govan, Scotland, on Wednesday. Britain goes to the polls Thursday.
SCOTT HEPPELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small parties could play a major role in determining who governs Britain after an election that polls suggest is too close to call. Neither the Conservatives nor Labour look likely to win a majority of House of Commons seats, and their poll ratings have barely shifted during the month-long campaign, with each supported by about a third of voters.

> **We've suspended him immediately, which is the right thing to do, and we do have a history of getting rid of people when they do something wrong very quickly indeed.**
> UKIP deputy chief Paul Nuttall

Both big parties, however, insisted they were aiming for outright victory. Prime Minister David Cameron acknowledged he was "nervous" about the result but said he hadn't spent time planning for post-election talks with prospective coalition partners.

"I'm out there trying to convince people that the Conservative Party has the right answers to keep the economy growing, to keep creating those jobs, cutting those taxes, investing in our NHS (health service)," he said.

Labour Leader Ed Miliband told BBC radio: "I'm not countenancing defeat. I'm focusing on winning the election."

Miliband faced a torrent of last-minute criticism from right-leaning British newspapers, which have depicted the prospect of a Labour government supported by the separatist Scottish National Party — one possible election outcome — as a threat to Britain's future.

British newspapers do not confine their attempts at political influence to editorial-page endorsements. The Rupert Murdoch-owned Sun ran a front-page photo of Miliband awkwardly eating a bacon sandwich, with the headline "Save Our Bacon."

The right-wing Daily Mail urged readers not to let "a class-war zealot and the SNP destroy our economy — and our very nation."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ INFLUENCE

Also facing a dramatic reduction in influence are the Liberal Democrats. The party has been junior coalition partner to Cameron's Conservatives since 2010 but has seen its ratings slide to single digits and looks set to lose a big chunk of its 59 seats.

But leader Nick Clegg insisted his party "will be the surprise story of the election."

"We are going to do so much better than anybody thinks," Clegg said.

GERMANWINGS

Co-pilot practised descent pre-crash

The co-pilot of Germanwings Flight 9525 appears to have practised sending the jetliner into a deadly descent on another flight, just two hours before he intentionally crashed into the French Alps, investigators said Wednesday.

The revelation appears to support the theory that the Germanwings crash was not only deliberate but premeditated. It came in a 30-page interim report from the French accident-investigation agency BEA.

Authorities are still puzzling over why Andreas Lubitz, who had suffered from suicidal tendencies and depression in the past, locked the captain out of the cockpit on March 24 and sent the Airbus A320 hurtling into a mountain, killing all 150 people on board.

Lubitz seemed to be toying with the airplane's settings on the earlier flight from Duesseldorf to Barcelona, programming it for a sharp descent multiple times in a 4-1/2-minute period while the pilot was out of the cockpit before resetting the controls, the report said. Unlike the later flight, he did not lock the pilot out of the cockpit.

The plane's "selected altitude" changed repeatedly and several times was set as low as 30 metres above sea level. The report says Lubitz also put the engines on idle, which gives the plane the ability to quickly descend.

On the doomed flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf, Lubitz also set a 30-metre altitude before the plane crashed into the Alps.

Aviation experts say it would be highly unusual for a pilot to repeatedly set a plane for such a low altitude for no apparent reason. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AUSTRALIA BLINKY BILL VISITS THE HOSPITAL
In this April 20 image made from a security video, a koala strolls through the automatic doors of Hamilton Base Hospital in Victoria state, Australia. The Health Service's CEO nicknamed the creature Blinky Bill, after a fictional koala first popularized in a series of children's books.
WESTERN DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Masonic 'police' arrested

CALIFORNIA

Authorities fear conspiracy to imitate law enforcement

Three people, one an aide to California Attorney General Kamala Harris, were arrested after claiming to operate a police department with jurisdiction in 33 states and Mexico and that traces its roots back 3,000 years.

Brandon Kiel, David Henry and Tonette Hayes were taken into custody last week on suspicion of impersonating officers as members of the Masonic Fraternal Police Department, said Los Angeles County sheriff's officials.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said detectives believe other people may be involved in the operation and that deputies found ID cards, uniforms and vehicles that appeared to look like law-enforcement vehicles along with other official police equipment during their search of a home and office linked to the group.

It's not clear whether any of the suspects attempted to do any real police work.

State records show Hayes is licensed as a security guard and has a firearm permit. She previously owned Masonic Security Service, while she and Henry run MIB Investigative Agency, though its state licence is suspended.

Kiel, 31, worked as deputy director of community affairs at the California Department of Justice since July 2013. He has been on paid administrative leave from his $67,416-a-year civil-service job since Thursday.

Kiel, Henry, 46, and Hayes, 59, were arrested April 30 and released later that day, according to jail records. Telephone calls and text messages seeking comment were not immediately returned.

In addition to the accusation of impersonating an officer, investigators allege Henry committed perjury. Kiel also is accused of misusing his government identification.

The investigation started after various police chiefs in Southern California received a letter in late January that announced new leadership for the Masonic Fraternal Police Department, sheriff's officials said.

In the letter, the group claims it is registered with the state and is informing the chief it will be working with "grandmasters, as well as fraternities and sororities throughout Sovereign Jurisdictions around the country."

The letter claims there are 5,686 lodges and that the department "will be able to acquire intel that is not accessible to non-fraternal entities." It said one aim of the department was to restore public trust.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARGENTINA

Meetings hoped to resolve death dispute

Two medical teams are meeting in Argentina's capital in an extraordinary session aimed at concluding whether the head prosecutor investigating the country's worst terrorist attack killed himself or was slain by another person.

The meeting began Wednesday after months of debate about how Alberto Nisman died Jan. 18, when he was found in his bathroom with a bullet in his head. The shot that destroyed Nisman's skull was fired with a gun that was loaned to him by aide Diego Lagomarsino, a computer technician who said the prosecutor asked for the weapon because he feared for his and his daughters' lives.

There is no doubt that the gun was the weapon that killed the prosecutor. But the lead investigator says authorities have not determined whether Nisman took his own life or was killed by someone else.

Sandra Arroyo Salgado, the late prosecutor's ex-wife, hired a forensic team that determined Nisman was slain by another person.

The meeting of medical officials aims to sort through that and other discrepancies. It is unclear when they will announce their conclusion.

Days before he died, Nisman accused President Cristina Fernandez of helping Iranian officials cover up their alleged role in the 1994 unsolved bombing of a Jewish community centre. A federal judge has thrown out the case, while Fernandez has denied the allegations against her and Iran has long denied any role in the bombing.

Conspiracy theories have flourished around the case, variously accusing the Argentine and American government and Nisman's own hand.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

No charges for Snowden statue-makers

A lawyer for the mystery artists who affixed a bust of Edward Snowden to a New York park's war monument says they've been ticketed but not criminally charged.

Ronald Kuby says the two got summonses for being in a park after hours, a noncriminal violation.

Parks officials ordered the statue removed hours after it appeared overnight without permission. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baltimore requests federal probe of police

Baltimore mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake called on U.S. government investigators Wednesday to look into whether this city's beleaguered police department uses a pattern of excessive force or discriminatory policing.

Baltimore saw days of unrest after Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man was taken into custody and suffered critical injuries. Gray died a week later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Youth exodus intensifies

DISASTER

No hope for jobs remains in Nepal post-earthquake

In this April 29 photo, people clear the debris from damage caused by an earthquake in Sakhu, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal. BERNAT AMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gone, the girl says as she squints into the sun, air around her shimmering with windblown wheat chaff. She points to one house after another in the green hills, most shattered from the massive earthquake that hit Nepal last month.

"Over there, one has gone. The same over there. Most of the young people here are gone. At least one for every house," Smriti Bastola, 16, says of this poor village of 400 people just 25 kilometres (15 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu. Most left for the Persian Gulf or in Kathmandu.

"We are living a miserable life here," Bastola says. "We are educated, but what jobs are there besides working in the fields for little money?"

This youth exodus, a painful choice between staying with family in impoverished hometowns or venturing into an often-harsh world to make much-needed money, began well before the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25 knocked flat whole villages.

However, some in rural Nepal wonder if they'll lose even the young ones who've stayed, complicating not only the job of rebuilding after the quake but the task of improving village life in one of the world's poorest countries.

"The country is like an elder home because all the young people are in Qatar, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia," says Nishchal Pandey, director of the Centre for South Asian Studies, in Kathmandu. "If these young people aren't going to be at home, who's going to do the reconstruction? The elderly aren't. The little children aren't."

The problem can be partially traced to a decade-long Maoist insurgency. It ended in 2006, but the country's infrastructure and economy have still not recovered, Pandey says.

> **There is no one to bring the raw materials ... to fix the broken houses.**
> Triveni Bastoli, age 27

Because the Maoists often forced rural young people to join them, many left for Kathmandu or foreign countries. As Nepalis gained reputations for being honest, hard workers, they were welcomed in the Gulf as construction workers, guards and manual labourers. Others in rural Nepal followed.

Today, about six million Nepalis, or 22 per cent of the country's 27.8 million people, live and work outside its borders, according to Krishna Prasad Dhakal, Nepal's deputy ambassador to India. Some 3 million are in India. Another 2.1 million are in the Persian Gulf area and Malaysia, Pandey says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CARDEL HOMES

IN BRIEF

Yemeni rebels capture presidental palace

Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies consolidated their hold in another part of the southern port city of Aden on Wednesday after heavy fighting with militiamen loyal to the exiled government and capturing the area's presidential palace, officials said.

The latest advance by the Houthi and their allies, loyalists of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, showed they are still combat-ready despite Saudi-led airstrikes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California addresses water shortage

The California State Water Resources Control Board approved rules Tuesday that force cities to limit watering on public property, encourage homeowners to let their lawns die and impose mandatory water-savings targets.

Gov. Jerry Brown sought the more stringent regulations, arguing that voluntary conservation efforts have so far not yielded the savings needed amid a four-year drought. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. MIDWEST LOOK OUT, DOROTHY! A swath of the Great Plains was under a tornado watch Wednesday, including parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.
TRAVIS HEYING/THE WICHITA EAGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFGHANISTAN

Four to hang for mob killing, 18 freed

Four Afghan men were sentenced Wednesday to death by hanging, over the filmed mob killing in downtown Kabul of a young woman falsely accused of burning the Qur'an, a case that horrified the country and showed the dangers women face in the conservative society.

But the family of the 27-year-old woman, a religious scholar named Farkhuna, immediately denounced the verdict as unfair, as the judge dropped charges against 18 men for a lack of evidence. Judge Safiullah Mojadedi sentenced eight others to 16 years in prison. Nineteen police officers accused in the case will be sentenced Saturday, their verdicts announced the next day.

"You saw just four people sentenced to death, but everybody knows that more than 40 people were involved in martyring and burning and beating my sister," said Farkhuna's brother Mujibullah, who like many Afghans, including his sister, uses only one name. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oculus Rift launch date set

GAMING

Facebook says virtual reality headset to ship early next year

Virtual reality is getting closer to a commercial reality as Facebook-owned Oculus VR has announced a consumer version of their headset will become available in early 2016.

"We're incredibly excited to announce that the Rift will be shipping to consumers in Q1 2016!" tweeted Nate Mitchell, Oculus's vice-president of product.

Oculus VR launched the current wave of virtual reality, unveiling the prototype of the Rift in 2012 to rapturous reviews. The company launched a Kickstarter campaign that raised just over $2.4 million. Facebook purchased the company for $2 billion in March 2014.

Virtual reality technology has had many highs and lows over the last 40 years, but has failed to capture people's imagination for a number of reasons. Early attempts featured cumbersome technology that lacked the ability to create truly immersive graphics experiences and carried high costs.

Attendees wear Oculus Rift HD virtual reality displays as they play EVE: Valkyrie, a multiplayer virtual reality shooter game, at the 2014 International CES. ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Improvements in screen technology, graphics and the current focus on the potentially lucrative hardcore gamer market have drawn big-name companies to the technology in recent months. Despite the current hype, there are still some issues, including the potential to cause motion sickness in some users.

Oculus revealed a little more information in a blog post. The model will be based on the Crescent Bay model available as part of the developer's kit for the device.

"The Oculus Rift builds on the presence, immersion, and comfort of the Crescent Bay prototype with an improved tracking system that supports both seated and standing experiences, as well as a highly refined industrial design, and updated ergonomics for a more natural fit," the company said in the post.

With many companies aiming to release commercial versions of their virtual reality products by the end of this year, Oculus faced being left behind.

Oculus has been working on the creation of a full experience, and even warned its competitors not to release bad headsets for fear of turning people off the nascent technology.

"We're a little worried about some of the bigger companies putting out product that isn't quite ready," said Brendan Iribe, Oculus VR's CEO at Dublin's Web Summit conference in November. "That elephant in the room is disorientation and motion sickness. . . . We're encouraging other companies, particularly the big consumer companies, to not put out a product until they've solved that problem."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Canada Post gives online shoppers more options

Canada Post is launching a new feature that gives online shoppers greater control over their parcels. The postal service said Wednesday that FlexDelivery will allow customers to decide which post office receives the delivery of their online order instead of being mailed to their home. Canada Post said consumers will need to register for a unique identification code on their website. When the order arrives, the user will receive an email notification. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SILICON VALLEY JOBS

Few Asians promoted to executives, study finds

Google, Yahoo and other major technology companies are far more inclined to hire Asians as computer programmers than to promote them to become managers or executives, according to a study released Wednesday.

Ascend, a group focused on Asian business issues, based its conclusions on 2013 data filed with U.S. employment regulators by five Silicon Valley companies — Google Inc., Yahoo Inc. Intel Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and LinkedIn Corp.

"If you step in the cafeteria of any of these five companies, you will see plenty of Asian talent around," said Denise Peck, a co-author of the Ascend study. "It's only when you walk into the executive suites … that you might see a problem."

The report found Asians held 27 per cent of the professional jobs yet only 14 per cent of executive posts. By comparison, whites held 62 per cent of the professional jobs at the studied companies, but filled 80 per cent of the executive jobs.

The technology industry's shortage of Asian executives stems in part from a cultural divide, the report concedes.

Corporate America often embraces confident, outspoken individuals with unconventional ideas. In contrast, many Asians are taught to be deferential and cling to a belief that doing a good job will automatically be rewarded, said Peck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASIAN WOMEN

Double whammy

The Ascend study found there was only one Asian female executive for every 287 Asian women at the five companies. But there was one white female executive for every 123 white women.

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Thursday, May 7, 2015

NDP reveals big cracks in Tory armour

POLITICS
Chantal Hébert

This is a week when sizeable potholes have surfaced on Stephen Harper's road to re-election.

The NDP's majority victory in Alberta has reinforced the federal New Democrats' claim that their party is ready for prime time nationally. At a minimum, the provincial election has exposed cracks in the walls of the country's main Conservative fortress.

At the same time, Harper is suddenly at risk of losing the upper hand on the central battlefield of tax cuts to the Liberals.

The two developments are independent of each other, but what connects them is that they find the ruling Conservatives playing defense on two flanks that they believed to be bullet-proof.

The 40 per cent of Albertans who ushered the NDP into government this week did not vote for Thomas Mulcair by proxy. And a slim majority of the province's voters stuck with the right, either by supporting the Wildrose party or Jim Prentice's Tories.

The good news for Harper is that those voters can be expected to unite behind his federal Conservatives next fall.

The bad news is that they are not spread evenly across the province.

On Tuesday premier-elect Rachel Notley's New Democrats won more than 20 ridings with a majority of the vote. Many of those seats were won with 60 per cent support or more. In another half a dozen ridings, the combined score of the NDP and the Liberals added up to more than 50 per cent.

Based on those results, a sizeable contingent of Alberta voters does not come across as predisposed to support the federal Conservatives next fall.

Alberta's 87 provincial ridings work out to 34 federal ones. The provincial results suggest that Harper's Conservatives could be campaigning against a tide for change in more than a quarter of them, mostly in the Edmonton area.

Conventional wisdom has it that vote-splitting between the NDP and the Liberals will still pave the way for the re-election of most of Alberta's Conservative incumbents and that may well be right.

In the federal by-elections that have taken place in the province since Justin Trudeau became leader, the Liberals scored immensely better than Mulcair's New Democrats. If Notley's success translates into a bump in support for her federal cousins, the result could be a more divided anti-Harper vote, not only in Alberta, but from coast to coast to coast.

Still, in the big picture, there comes a point when two strong opposition parties, instead of eating each other's lunches, start taking sizeable bites out of different sections of the incumbent's pie.

That's what happened to the Parti Québécois last year.

So far, the Conservatives have focused their attacks on Trudeau. Polls have long suggested that the Liberals, not the NDP, are the main threat to a fourth Conservative victory next fall.

But, what if, in their efforts to weaken the Liberals, the Conservatives open themselves up for a kill at the hands of a conversely strengthened NDP?

As unlikely as the scenario of a Mulcair victory may seem, it is still less improbable than the advent of a majority NDP government in Alberta was thought to be only a few weeks ago.

It is a risk that Harper's Conservatives will now need to reassess.

At the same time, Trudeau is now challenging the Conservatives on their tax-cutting turf.

Two days after he unveiled two platform planks — a tax cut for middle-income earners and an enhanced child benefit targeted to middle-class families — Conservative spin doctors are still uncharacteristically struggling to come up with an effective response.

As unlikely as a Mulcair victory seems, it's less improbable than an NDP majority in Alberta was thought to be only a few weeks ago.

To date, they have not managed to do better than try to bluster their way out of a trap that finds them standing up for the more affluent section of the electorate. It does not help that the trap is largely of the government's own making.

Harper's re-election for a fourth mandate has always hinged on a divided opposition and post-Alberta election that remains a potentially winning condition for his party.

But a week that has seen both the hands of the Liberals and the NDP reinforced at Conservative expense is not one that bodes especially well for the game plan of the Prime Minister.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metro*view*

Deviants? Out-of-towners? No, Alberta has progressives, too

You can stop laughing now. Alberta politics have long been a joke to liberal, or even centrist, outsiders. You know, Alberta "politics," wink, wink.

But the NDP's incredible win means the joke is over.

We're now in the position of envying Alberta for more than its alcohol prices and legal drinking age. We're envying it for its democracy.

In the words of pollster Angus Reid — who's seen only Conservatives govern Alberta since he began polling in the 1970s — "change is indeed possible."

"This has big implications, and I think it's going to send a shiver down the spines of a lot politicians that think they can ride in on cynicism" and low voter turnout, he said.

The election brought in 58.1 per cent of voters, Elections Alberta said. That's much higher than voter turnout during the last two elections and a significant step above the average 50.9 per cent over the last six elections, according to media reports.

Albertan friends of mine say this election shows the nuances of Alberta politics, a phrase most out-of-province Canadians have never heard.

Callers to a morning radio show in Calgary spoke yesterday about how their vote mattered for the first time in 40 years, because their candidate got elected. Even some of those who voted Conservative spoke of their excitement about the variety of views given a voice.

"I know a lot of people that aren't rednecks, and maybe that wasn't previously reflected," said a friend of mine who hails from southern Alberta, heartland of the former Conservative dynasty.

A gay friend in Edmonton told me: "This is first time in my life where I haven't voted out of fear for what could happen to me."

In the last election, he voted for the PCs to stop the far-right Wildrose Party from winning. The PCs miscalculated the number of progressives like him that have kept them in power, he said.

David Shepherd, the new NDP MLA for Edmonton-Centre, grew up in the city, under that monotone provincial government. He told me he's "always believed there was a strong progressive voice."

They aren't the voices of deviants or out-of-towners. They're Albertans, too.

Now, the rest of us need to rethink that stereotype of Alberta as the nation's small town, isolated by right-wing ideas and traditional Christian values.

She's not just your Great Aunt Alberta, eating steak and drinking oil at every meal — though she's still got a lot of conservatism left.

I'd like to take that lady out for tea — the whole ideological spectrum of her — and thank her for reminding us what elections can do.

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Your essential daily news

Bigger than the Beatles: Study says hip hop more musically influential than the Fab Four

In bloom: Local for mom

MOTHER'S DAY

Ethical flowers are beautiful in more ways than one

Worker's rights and environmental sustainability are not necessarily subjects one thinks about on Mother's Day — but our floral preferences can have an impact on both.

"I think we should consider where our flowers come from the same way we do with food," says Calida Grymaloski, who along with her partner runs Bathtub Gardens, a two-acre flower farm that uses organic growing methods in Pemberton, B.C.

"Conventionally grown blooms are often bred to be packed and shipped so the focus is on maxing out the vase life rather than the beauty of the flower itself," says Grymaloski.

Cleomes, or Spider Flowers, grow at Bathtub Gardens, a two-acre farm in B.C. that uses organic growing methods.

COURTESY BATHTUB GARDENS

Latin American countries like Colombia, Ecuador — source of the majority of cut flowers in Canada — tend to have lax labour laws and health-and-safety codes, according to groups like the Ethical Trading Initiative and US Labor Education in the Americas Project.

As well, many cut flowers from developing countries are grown using toxic pesticides banned in Canada, and imported flowers are not tested for pesticide residues, according to the David Suzuki Foundation.

A medical survey by Oxfam Colombia showed that two-thirds of Colombia's flower workers had suffered from health problems related to pesticide exposure.

A Better Bouquet

But before you give up on bouquets altogether, consider getting mom a locally grown bouquet on Sunday.

Grown year-round in many parts of the country, Canadian cut flowers are typically grown without pesticides — even at farms that are not certified organic, according to Joseph Delarge of Eco Stems, an ethical and sustainable flower shop in Toronto.

And with our labour codes, workers are protected here.

He also maintains that where flowers are grown sustainably, their quality is better.

"Our customers find that these flowers actually last longer because we harvest them only days before delivery. Conventionally grown flowers of the same type will have been harvested sometimes three weeks before they end up in your vase."

Lest you think local is too limiting, there's a wide variety of grown-in-Canada blooms you can get this time of year.

Delarge says he has irises, tulips, roses, orchids, calla lilies, ranunculus and anemones in his fridge right now.

Grymaloski says they grow 80 varieties on their farm, with a more unique selection than those found on a conventional farm.

If you're worried about breaking the bank, she says their prices can be comparable to conventionally grown flowers, although the selection might be a little different.

"We typically avoid growing commodity crops like long-stemmed roses, baby's breath, carnations and even sunflowers which are grown as monocrops on large chunks of land with massive infrastructure," she says. "However we want our customers to receive fair prices and a quality product, so we focus on different species that are more suitable to small-scale production."

She says that if customers buy flowers directly through them via farmers markets, their Community Supported Agriculture program or their local farm stand, the prices would be comparable with a standard bouquet. METRO LIFE

OTHER OPTIONS

Fairtrade

• If you can't stay away from those long-stem roses, you're probably looking at getting flowers grown outside of Canada.

• Look for Fairtrade or Veriflora-certified bouquets. These programs ensure the farms promote healthy workplaces and sustainable farming practices.

Native varieties

• Delarge and Grymaloski say cut flowers are almost never native, so if you are looking to get mom some indigenous flowers, potted plants are the way to go.

• Check with your local garden centre. Local park organizations and botanical gardens will also often have native plant sales in the spring.

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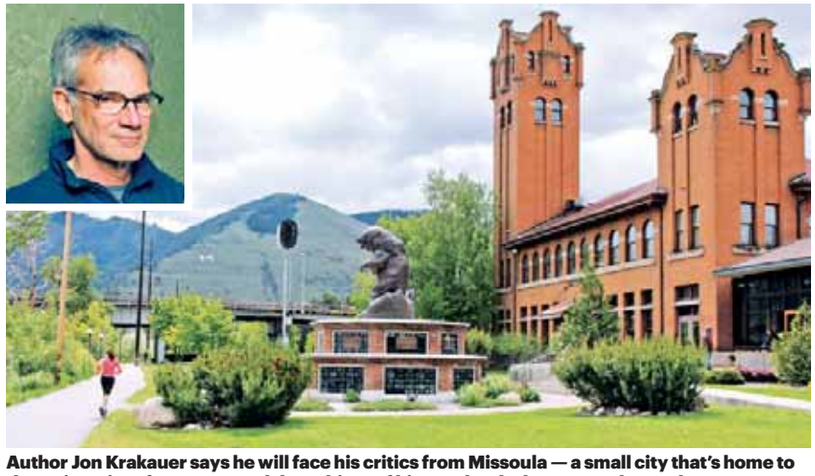
Author to face upset town

NONFICTION BESTSELLER

Jon Krakauer to visit place at heart of book on college rape



Author Jon Krakauer says he will face his critics from Missoula — a small city that's home to the University of Montana and the subject of his new book about sexual assault on campus.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE/INSET: GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bestselling author Jon Krakauer is making one public appearance to promote his latest work, Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town. It's in the titular town, where he will face angry critics who say his decision to focus on the small Montana city is unfair.

Krakauer said Tuesday he wanted to give those critics the chance to confront him about the book.

"It took me by surprise that people were so upset by the title," Krakauer told The Associated Press. "It seemed like a perfect example of a problem that exists nationwide."

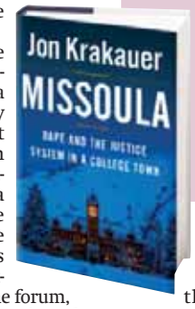
"I never meant to hold Missoula up as the worst case. It's not," he added.

The book, which ranks fourth on the New York Times hardcover nonfiction bestseller list, uses the city to illustrate what Krakauer calls a nationwide problem faced by rape victims to persuade police and prosecutors to pursue their cases.

The book focuses on several University of Montana women who were assaulted between 2010 and 2012, the same period covered in a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into whether Missoula and university officials mishandled rape reports. The federal inquiry led to reforms in how the university and city respond to sexual assaults.

> **I never meant to hold Missoula up as the worst case. It's not**
> Jon Krakauer

Critics have denounced Krakauer, the author of the bestselling books Into Thin Air and Into the Wild, for turning the spotlight on Missoula and accuse him of reopening wounds inflicted by the Justice Department investigation. Others criticize the book as a one-sided account that doesn't include the voices of the prosecutors he depicts as failing the rape victims.



Krakauer said he tried to get comment from Missoula County Attorney Kirsten Pabst, but he stopped when her attorney threatened him with a lawsuit. He said he would welcome Pabst and others from the county attorney's office to the forum, saying he has questions he would like to ask them.

Pabst did not return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Krakauer said he did not know what kind of reception to expect in Missoula but that he hoped the forum would "clear the air."

"I get it. Missoula takes a lot of pride in the town — as Missoulians should — and this book was seen as an attack on the integrity of the town, which it is not," Krakauer said.

His focus on the town came after he started following rape cases across the nation, the author said. He decided that the subject could be turned into a book after travelling to Montana to hear the impressive testimony of one of the victims he profiles, he said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK NOTES

Clearing the air

The forum, organized by Fact and Fiction Bookstore owner Barbara Theroux, will consist of University of Montana School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson interviewing Krakauer and asking him questions submitted by the public in advance. "I think if people feel a little less uncomfortable about the fact that this book was dropped on the town, and at least he came to explain himself, that would be a worthwhile goal to me," Abramson said.

FEMALE FRIENDSHIP

'Tale of besties' from Zooey's BFF

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York City

When Sophia Rossi launched the women's lifestyle site HelloGiggles back in 2011 with her friend Zooey Deschanel, media wasn't exactly interested in women playing nice with each other.

"Shows like The Hills were based so much on fighting friendships," Rossi says. "We wanted to show that your friends are your family."

Four years later, the site has 16 million unique visitors per month and Rossi has a new book coming out, A Tale of Two Besties (out May 12), which celebrates female friendship. Eavesdrop on our girl talk below:

What inspired you to write specifically for teens?
I loved YA growing up. I read all the Sweet Valley High, The Baby-Sitters Club and Nancy Drew books. When HelloGiggles started, (Zooey and I) created a community of people who had youth as their interest and I wanted to extend that into a book.

Did you reread the Sweet Valley High books as an adult?
I did reread a few of them! For my birthday, Zooey collected all the Sweet Valley High and Baby-Sitters Club books on eBay for me, so we have them in our office. We're constantly remembering stories from both series. Franchine Pascal, who wrote the Sweet Valley High series, actually blurbed my book, which is like a dream.

You guys were friends when you launched HelloGiggles together. Do you have any tips for going into business with a friend?
Yes. Celebrate your victories. I think we all get busy with our schedules, but it's nice to stop and say, let's get dinner and celebrate this. My other tip is having clear defining roles, especially at a startup.

Who are your best friends now?
I have a few besties, but I don't like labelling them as that, because as Mindy Kaling says, "best friends" isn't a term, it's a tier. So I have a bunch. I just had a sleepover with my bestie Charlotte Ronson last night and her twin sister Samantha. And Lauren Conrad and I became so close when I was a writer for The Hills; I really consider her a sister.

Rivka Sophia Rossi and her new book. ROSSI'S TUMBLR/HANDOUT

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With Dad Bods, squishy is sexy

CONCEPT TAKES OFF

Beer bellies, not biceps, the newest male physique trend

Jason Segel stripped down and showed off his Dad Bod in 2008's Forgetting Sarah Marshall. Leonardo DiCaprio is also rocking the Dad Bod these days. HANDOUT; INSET: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What do Simon Cowell, Jason Segel and Leonardo DiCaprio all have in common (apart from global fame and fortune)? They all boast a "Dad Bod."

A what-bod, you cry? Well, allow us to explain: The Dad Bod is the latest trend for the male physique.

Where once women craved six-packs that could grate cheese and biceps the size of tree trunks, now a cuddly torso and gentle paunch is all that's required, according to a blog post written by U.S. student Mackenzie Pearson that has since gone viral.

In her post, Mackenzie describes the Dad Bod as "a nice balance between a beer gut and working out." She continues: "The dad bod says, 'I go to the gym occasionally, but I also drink heavily on the weekends and enjoy eating eight slices of pizza at a time.' It's not an overweight guy, but it isn't one with washboard abs, either."

Mackenzie argues that the physique is a hit with women because it is non-threatening, comfortable to cuddle up to and honest in the sense that it probably won't undergo any drastic transformation within the next 20 years (note: you don't have to be a father to have a Dad Bod; in fact it is perfectly acceptable to have one when you're still in your 20s). "While we all love a sculpted guy, there is just something about the dad bod that makes boys seem more human, natural, and attractive," she states.

The concept was an immediate hit with nicely squishy men everywhere, who took to Instagram without delay to show off their less-than-toned torsos and chunky arms. The account "CollegeDadBods" has been quietly gaining momentum since the beginning of this year and has now become a fully-fledged homage to regular guys in all their glory.

The positive reaction to this newfound appreciation for curvy men has reminded us all that guys, too, face an attimes unrealistic social pressure to be buff and trim. But where will the trend take us next? Could the "Mom Bod" be the lusted-after shape for 2015? Time will tell. AFP

> **"The dad bod says, 'I go to the gym occasionally, but I also drink heavily on the weekends and enjoy eating eight slices of pizza at a time.'**
>
> Mackenzie Pearson in a blog post that has gone viral

MATERNAL

Norway tops list of best countries to be a mother

Norway ranks as the world's best place to be a mother, well ahead of the United States, which dropped to the 33rd spot in the annual scorecard released by Save the Children on Monday.

Somalia is the worst place, just below the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

Save the Children released its 16th annual Mothers' Index, which rates 179 countries based on five indicators related to maternal health, education, income levels and the status of women.

Scandinavian countries have consistently taken the first spots in the Mothers' Index, with Finland earning the top spot last year. AFP

20

Canada took the 20th spot on the index.

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Increasingly, odds are against golden retriever longevity.
GETTY IMAGES

Golden years escape many retrievers

RESEARCH

Study seeks answers to why dogs are dying of cancer

If a golden retriever gives birth, gets stung by a bee or sprayed by a skunk, veterinarians want to know.

Scientists are studying the popular breed to find out why their lifespans have gotten shorter over the years and why cancer is so prevalent.

The Colorado-based Morris Animal Foundation recently got the first lifetime study of 3,000 purebred golden retrievers up and running after signing up the first dogs in 2012. The nonprofit says the review of health conditions and environmental factors facing goldens across the U.S. can help other breeds and even people, because humans carry 95 per cent of the same DNA.

"Canine cancer has become a dog owner's greatest fear," said Dr. David Haworth, president and CEO of the foundation, which invested $25 million in the study.

The vets haven't learned enough yet to improve or prolong the retrievers' lives, but key factors could lie anywhere, said Dr. Michael Lappin, who has 19 patients from Buzzards Bay, Mass., in the study. When he graduated from veterinary school in 1972, golden retrievers lived 16 or 17 years. Today, it's nine or 10 years.

Golden retrievers die of bone cancer, lymphoma and a cancer of the blood vessels more than any other breed in the country.

Pet owners keep tabs on everything, from a move across country or across town, a change in climate or time zone, new children at home, different food or behavioural changes. Most keep journals so they don't constantly call the vets when their dog gets a thorn in its foot, eats a spider or devours a bunch of bologna if it tears into the groceries.

The vets collect blood, waste, and hair and nail samples annually to test if the dogs get sick, hoping to uncover a common thread or early warning sign among dogs that develop cancer or other diseases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE DOG DETAILS

So far, seven goldens in the study have died of conditions such as cancer and gastrointestinal problems, and one was hit by a car, Haworth said. Another dropped out when its owner died. The dogs come from every state; about half are male and half are female; and half are fixed and half are not.

Those who brought dogs into the study, including both veterinarians, hope goldens get a shot at the longer life they used to enjoy.

"I'm glad I found the study and feel in some small way, I might make a difference," Yetka said.

HEALTH CARE

Smartphones used as tiny labs in Africa

Prick a finger and have the blood checked for parasites — by smartphone?

Scientists are turning those ubiquitous phones into microscopes and other medical tools that could help fight diseases in remote parts of the world.

In the newest work, University of California, Berkeley, researchers used a smartphone-run video microscope to target a challenge in parts of Central Africa — some devastating infections caused by tiny parasitic worms.

A small pilot study in Cameroon showed the device could measure within minutes certain worms wriggling in a finger-prick of blood, rapidly identifying who is a candidate for an important medication — and who's at risk for a severe side effect from that drug.

If larger studies pan out, the so-called CellScope Loa could help revive a program to eliminate diseases that cause blindness and disability in the region, the team reported Wednesday in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Essentially, the instrument acted as a cheap, portable laboratory — no lab technician required — part of a trend in medical uses for smartphones that goes far beyond simple tasks like measuring heartbeats or emailing your doctor photos of a suspicious mole.

"This is a very important technology," said Baylor College of Medicine's Dr. Peter Hotez, a well-known specialist in neglected tropical diseases who wasn't involved in the new research.

"It's very practical," by eliminating the need for specially trained health workers and pricey equipment in remote villages, he added.

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PRODUCT LAUNCH

Now you can buy a little bit of Witherspoon's Southern charm

Reese Witherspoon has launched her own lifestyle brand.

The Oscar-winning actress unveiled her Draper James online store Wednesday, which includes women's clothing and accessories, stationery and home decor.

Witherspoon says on the site that she named the brand for her grandparents, who showed her the charm of "gracious Southern living."

The actress says in a video that the collection is "inspired by my romance, my love of the South combined with the modern woman that I am today."

"I created this brand for you," she says.

Some of the items available include a $140 sun hat, a $14 notepad and a $30 set of thank-you cards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reese Witherspoon
GETTY IMAGES

NEW PROJECTS

Rhimes, Rees plan new series about Great Migration study

Grey's Anatomy creator-producer Shonda Rhimes is joining forces with writer-director Dee Rees to bring Isabelle Wilkerson's book The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration to the small screen.

The book examines the mass exodus of nearly 6 million blacks who fled the south between 1917 and 1970 in search of equality.

The study focuses on the trials, tribulations and triumphs of Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 fled Mississippi for Chicago, George Starling, who left Florida for Harlem in 1945 and Dr. Robert Pershing Foster, who in 1953 fled Louisiana for Los Angeles.

In 1994, Wilkerson became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize in journalism, selected for her coverage of the 1993 Midwestern floods.

AFP

Shonda Rhimes
GETTY IMAGES

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BODY IMAGE

Zooey won't be 'sexy new mom in bikini'

New Girl star Zooey Deschanel is eager to temper expectations for what she'll be doing after she gives birth to her first child, due later this year.

"Haven't we all seen those pictures of a sexy new mom in a bikini after one month? I will not be that person," she tells Cosmopolitan.

"I've always gone my own course and never been someone who had the need to be super skinny. I like a healthy look. I don't buy into that skinny-is-better mentality. I just eat healthy and work out and don't worry about my weight too much. Actresses aren't models, and most of them never wanted to be."

It's fascinating how she can simultaneously inspire and aggravate other women, no? NED EHRBAR/METRO

BIRTHDAY GET-UP

Adele celebrates 27th as George Michael

Adele as her "hero." TWITTER

It's Adele's party, and she'll dress up like Faith-era George Michael if she wants to.

The Skyfall singer posted a photo of herself gussied up as Michael for her 27th birthday, complete with aviator glasses and excessive stubble.

"Thank you for the birthday wishes. I had a wonderful time," she writes. "I was my hero."

To be fair, there are a lot worse music icons she could emulate heading into the ever-so-ominous — for musicians, at least — age of 27. As far as we know, Michael's 27th year was rather uneventful. But it is kind of surprising that he would be Adele's hero, no? NED EHRBAR/METRO

KIND WORDS FOR BIEBER ... FOR LOHAN, NOT SO MUCH

Lady Gaga's life advice to Beebs

Selfie at Met Gala. INSTAGRAM/LADYGAGA

Justin Bieber has found a surprising ally in Lady Gaga. The two pop stars spent some time together at the Met Gala earlier this week and took a few selfies — one of which Gaga herself posted recently along with a lengthy caption coming to the troubled Canadian wunderkind's defence.

"He really has a sweetness to him," she writes. "He grew up in front of the whole world. I reminded him to not get bothered. Because at the end of the day, he's the boss, and life isn't always roses. Lots of thorns."

LiLo community service update

Today marks the day Lindsay Lohan has to check in with the court and show that she's making progress on those pesky 125 hours of community service she was ordered to finish by May 28, and word is she's still got a long way to go.

"Lindsay has hardly made a dent in the court-ordered 125 hours of community service. It's an extremely unimpressive number so far — less than 20 hours total," a source tells Radar Online. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Davis's film festival bets on diversity

Geena Davis has launched a film festival in Arkansas focused on women and diversity. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

FIGHTING GENDER BIAS

Women-focused event promises distribution for winning entries

17%

Research funded by Davis's institute and conducted by the University of Southern California found that women — who constitute more than half of the U.S. population — typically comprise just 17 per cent of on-screen crowd scenes.

With help from a slew of corporate sponsors, Geena Davis and filmmakers focused on women and diversity have taken over Bentonville, Ark., a city of 40,000 best known as Wal-Mart's home base.

While it's not the first film festival to specialize in diversity, Davis said it's the only film competition to promise theatrical releases for winning entries.

"It's unheard of in the world, actually," the Oscar winner said in a telephone interview before opening the festival Tuesday. "It's the only festival offering distribution across theatrical, digital and on TV and on DVD.... That's just part of our push to show how commercial diverse films can be."

About 75 films will be screened over the four-day festival, which will also include panel discussions and a celebratory A League of Their Own baseball game, featuring appearances by Rosie O'Donnell and two original members of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Davis plans to expand the festival beyond Bentonville to include educational outreach and events throughout the year. Founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media in 2007, the actress plans to bring the research amassed by her organization to film schools and colleges around the country.

"It's very important to educate the next generation of content creators before they even start their professional careers," she said. "Once it's brought to (filmmakers') attention, once they hear the numbers, they're just stunned and horrified ... how much gender bias there is and lack of diversity." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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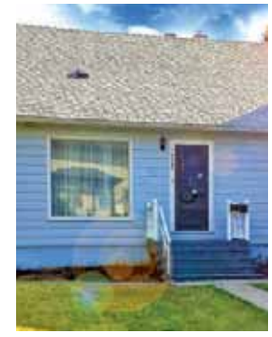
metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Only four per cent of Canadians check reviews before hiring a contractor: HomeStars survey

What they're a$king

The 'average' Canadian home is a midsize, detached house with three to four bedrooms, in and around the city core. Single-family homes are in demand in Toronto and Vancouver. Prices reflect the limited inventory. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO



$400,000

Edmonton

Sitting on a large corner lot in the desirable Grovenor community, this house includes a landscaped and fenced yard, and oversized, double detached garage. There's a family room, a fourth bedroom in the basement, and an enclosed sunroom. The backyard includes a natural gas barbecue. Listing agent is Sean Nykolyshyn with Liv Real Estate, 780-298-6956.

$982,000

Vancouver

This four-bedroom ranch-style home is 15 minutes from downtown. It was listed for $1,050,000 and sold at press time for $982,000. The house has a living area of 2,590 sq. ft. and sits on a 50-foot lot that includes a large, detached garage with workshop. The house also features great views of the city. Listing agent is Cathy Graham with Royal LePage Sussex, 604-984-9711.

$449,900

Winnipeg

Right in the heart of Winnipeg, in the Bridgewater Forest neighbourhood, this three-bedroom detached home features a large master bedroom with large windows, a four-piece ensuite bathroom and a large walk-in closet. The house is on a sizeable lot, ideal for a growing family. Listing agent Chris Kenny is a sales representative with Re/Max Professionals, 204-899-4858.

$849,000

Calgary

This three-bedroom detached home at 446-12 St. NW is a good example of what an inner-city character home will go for in Calgary, says listing agent Susan Harrigan. The historic home is located in the heart of the Kensington shopping district and is listed for $849,000. A large entry leads into a spacious living room and dining room. The renovated kitchen features traditional cream cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances. A cosy family room overlooks the backyard. Harrigan is a sales representative for Homelife Cityscape Real Estate, 403-669-9112.

$499,900

Ottawa

This two-bedroom, two-bathroom detached urban home is in the heart of Westboro. The house sits on a 69-foot x 66-foot lot. Updates include a new roof, new windows, a renovated kitchen and bathrooms, new flooring and waterproofed foundation. "A rare find indeed," says listing agent Kerry Millican, who is a sales representative with Royal Lepage Team Realty, 613-290-2990.

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Masters of Flip on small space fixes

RENOVATING

Home buyers will notice hidden gems, open shelving

Sometimes it is well worth the effort of renovating a house that seems like a lost cause, especially when it comes to fetching the highest possible price for the house in the end.

Just ask real-estate and house-flipping experts Dave and Kortney Wilson, the stars of the upcoming home renovation show Masters of Flip, who suss out worn-out homes and "flip them" — turn them to prime properties that make a profit when they sell. Oh, and they do this with limited time and budget.

"Dave is a rock star at finding the gems," Kortney says, "and trust me, they are all diamonds in the rough leaving much to the imagination."

The Canadian-born couple, who have renovated more than 40 houses together, are now based in Nashville, Tenn. They took time out for a Q&A with Metro about the show and sprucing up small spaces.

WATCH THIS
Masters of Flip premieres on the W Network at 10 p.m. EST/PST on May 12.

Q: How did your very first renovation project turn out, and what did you learn from it?

Kortney: We learned on the first renovation that this could be a life changer for us. It wasn't until the second where we learned the hard lessons — ha. We thought we would make $35,000 and after (the house sat) on the market for several weeks, we ended up making closer to $14,000. The market turned shortly after and we both felt lucky to have sold it and made a profit at all.
Dave: Lesson learned: bloat your budgets and be conservative on the front end. If everything goes wrong and you can still make a profit, that house needs to be flipped.

Q: How can a homeowner know a renovation is necessary?

Kortney: If the home has powder-blue tile covering the bathrooms, or laminate countertops and paneling from the '70s, it's a sure fire way to know that baby needs to be renovated. It's time. If there are houses in the neighbourhood that are fetching a much higher price after updates have been made, it is likely a great time to sink some money into your home and enjoy it while knowing you will still get your money out of it if you decide to sell.

Masters of Flip stars Dave and Kortney Wilson. "I'm the design ying to Dave's renovation yang," Kortney says. W NETWORK

Q; It seems obvious to renovate a small space to create more space, but are there other reasons to renovate a small space?

Kortney: Absolutely. You have to be careful that the numbers make sense as to not over indulge on the finishing touches and price yourself out of the market. Having said that, typically, smaller homes go for a higher price per square foot, and you can afford to put some extras into the home. Try and focus on creating storage. Maximize what is there and create open shelving and hidden gems within the space. This will not be overlooked by a buyer in the future.

Q: Can you provide an approximation of how much time is involved in renovating a small space, and the cost involved?

Dave: It all depends on what you are renovating. A bathroom could take three weeks while adding wainscoting and paint could take a couple of days. In general, it takes about four to seven days to refinish hardwood flooring. In these cases, ALWAYS take a little vacation and get out of the house. It's never fun to live in dust and stain while all of your furniture is stacked on top of another in your master bathroom.

Q: What are the most common renovation mistakes you've seen and how can they be avoided?

Kortney: We see a lot of kitchens that aren't laid out properly. It's important to remember that when you lay out the kitchen, the appliances aren't there until it's finished. Make sure they aren't all beside each other.
Dave: Too much, too close and if you watch the show, you will hear Kortney talk a lot of recessing the refrigerator so it doesn't awkwardly stick into the room. Of all the rooms, the kitchen will be the hub of your home and it's important to get it right the first time since it will likely also be the most expensive of the renovations.

METRO CANADA

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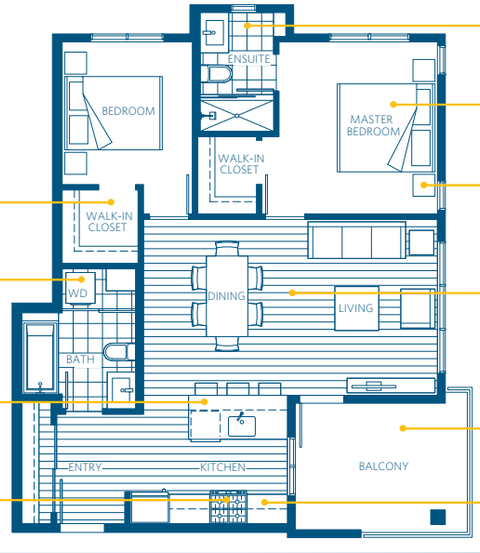
865 SQ FT



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Karl Lohnes

Whether you head off to a cottage each weekend or are planning staycations instead, there's no reason why your favourite weekend refuge can't look good.

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Rustic meets elegance with weathered wood and classic lines. $199, UrbanBarn.com

2 Cottage Life Weekend Collection Sticks Chair
Solid wood and handmade with pure nostalgic style. $479, AmbersFurniture.com

3 Milk Bottles In Tray
Add a tall straw and your favourite libation for an all-day cocktail. $13, Homesense.ca

4 Hudson Bay Company Multi-Striped Napkins
Infuse your dinner party with a touch of Canadiana flavour. $25/set of four, TheBay.com

5 Antique Black Quincy Bed
Eighteenth-century lines mix with a dramatic colour twist. $1,900, EthanAllen.com

6 Locust Kona Patchwork Quilt
Blue and white is always a classic summer colour combination. $200, UrbanOutfitters.com

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It's the thought that counts

Astrid Van Den Broek
For Metro

When it comes to Mother's Day, the cliché, 'it's the thought that counts,' really does ring true.

"People need to remember that Mother's Day is not about the gifts," said Alexandria Durrell, the mommy blogger behind idontblog.ca. "It's about thanking moms for all they do for us. It's a tough slog being a mom. And when your kids are grown, it's touching for them to recognize just how hard it was once upon a time. A little thanks goes a long way."

So, if it's the thought that matters, how do we make mom feel truly special for her big day? Here are five ways to do it.

1 LISTEN TO MOM. Chances are she has dropped hints about what she wants, or at least what she would love to have. "She will tell you if you ask," said Yvonne Marcus, the blogger behind thedahliascene.com. "Whether it's directly or in her actions, she's telling you all year long what she'd like or need."

2 GIVE HER SELF-CARE. "Is mom tired?" Durrell said. "Does she need some time alone? Does she ever pamper herself? Answer those questions and you'll find the perfect gift for your perfect mom."

3 HONOUR YOUR CONNECTION. This year Marcus became a new mom and is asking for a nameplate necklace for herself. "It commemorates the new relationship between me and my son, and it always keeps him with me," she said.

4 GIVE HER TIME. "A full day where I'm not responsible for anything would be amazing," Durrell said. You could accessorize mom's free day with a spa gift certificate to use that day, another certificate for a dinner out and even a book she can begin to read.

5 GET CREATIVE. "Think outside of the box when it comes to presents," Marcus said. "If she enjoys animals, then maybe buy her a zoo membership instead of an item. It'll help create memories for her with her kids that they can cherish for years. Or even make her animal-shaped pancakes for breakfast or something equally simple but that will stir conversation."

Whether it's directly or in her actions, your mother has probably told you what she would like or need this Mother's Day. SHUTTERSTOCK

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PHOTO SHOOT
Treasure this special time by hiring a professional maternity photographer to capture mom in her full, baby-belly glory.

PRENATAL MASSAGE
A soothing, tailor-made massage offers the ultimate in relaxation, and provides major health benefits.

PUT HER FEET UP
Arrange a mani-pedi at her favourite nail spa, but because nail polish often contains harsh chemicals, choose a salon that takes a holistic or non-toxic approach. This little bit of personal time will leave her feeling pampered and polished.

LIFE STORY
Create a photo album celebrating your most memorable moments together. There are plenty of options to choose from, including iPhoto, Shutterfly, Snapfish, or buy an album and print pictures at home. **TANYA ENBERG/FOR METRO**

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metro SPORTS

Bryce Harper hit three home runs as the Washington Nationals topped the Miami Marlins

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Secondary scoring heating up

NHL PLAYOFFS

Ducks shutting down Flames' top line thus far, have 2-1 lead

Secondary scoring helped the Calgary Flames inch back into their playoff series against the Anaheim Ducks.

More of it is needed for the Flames to extend and win it.

Calgary's top line of Sean Monahan, Jiri Hudler and Johnny Gaudreau have yet to score even-strength in their Western Conference semifinal, due in large part to Anaheim's suffocating forward unit of Ryan Kesler, Matt Belesky and Jacob Silfverberg.

Gaudreau's electrifying power-play goal with 19 seconds to go in Game 3 was the buzz Wednesday as it doused fires on several fronts for the Flames.

The Calder Trophy candidate's wrist shot on a two-man advantage deadlocked the game and opened the door for Mikael Backlund to score the 4-3 overtime winner. Calgary avoided falling behind three games to none in the series.

Gaudreau's goal also diffused fans' resentment over a disallowed Sam Bennett equalizer earlier in the third period, which would have been debated for days in Calgary had the Flames lost.

But overlooked were Joe Colborne and Backlund scoring their first goals, and fourth-liner Brandon Bollig collecting his second of this post-season.

"It's up to us to step up and take some of the pressure off our top line," Colborne said. "You can't win a Stanley Cup with just one line going."

The Flames trail two games to one in the best-of-seven conference semifinal. The Kesler line isn't likely to let up on Monahan's unit in Friday's Game 4, as the Ducks will be hungry to steal a win at the Scotiabank Saddledome and close it out Sunday at the Honda Centre.

Calgary's top trio mustered a combined three shots on net in Game 3.

"Definitely need to try to outwork them a little bit more," Gaudreau said of the Ducks' line shadowing his.

"They're really skilled defensively and do a great job in their own zone in blocking shots. We've got to make sure we're getting pucks to the point and trying to get in front of the net, try to screen and get some dirty goals there."

Monahan, 20, and Hudler each scored 31 goals to lead the Flames this season, while 21-year-old Gaudreau piled up 64 points. Gaudreau's power-play goal is their lone tally against Anaheim.

Flames coach Bob Hartley retains last line change as the home team Friday and can use it to separate his top line from Kesler's. But Hartley also wants his firepower on the ice.

"They're using Kesler basically every faceoff in the defensive zone," the coach explained. "What do I do? Keep my best offensive unit on the bench because I don't want them to play against Kesler? We're not going to do this.

"Best players want to be on the ice. Even though we have two very young players on our most productive unit, I'm not going to shy away from this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

18

The Flames got more shots away in Game 3 compared to the first two games, but not necessarily through as Anaheim blocked 18 to Calgary's nine.

TOP COACH

The New York Rangers' Alain Vigneault, Calgary's Bob Hartley and Nashville's Peter Laviolette were named the finalists for the Jack Adams Award as NHL's coach of the year.

Hartley led the Flames to a 20-point gain in the standings over 2013-14 — the highest jump among Western Conference teams.

Flames forward Joe Colborne scored his first goal of the playoffs in Game 3 against the Ducks on Tuesday night at the Scotiabank Saddledome. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bolts beat buzzer, push Habs to brink

GAME 3 In Tampa

LIGHTNING	CANADIENS
2	1

Tyler Johnson scored a buzzer-beater to put the Montreal Canadiens on the brink of elimination.

Johnson scored with 1.1 seconds remaining in regulation to give the Tampa Bay Lightning a 2-1 victory in Game 3 Wednesday night at Amalie Arena.

The Canadiens face elimination in Game 4 Thursday night.

Alex Killorn scored the first goal for the Lightning, who have won all eight meetings with Montreal dating back to the regular season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadiens' Brendan Gallagher reacts after the Lightning scored the go-ahead goal. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Caps lock up win on rookie's two goals

GAME 4 In Washington

CAPITALS	RANGERS
2	1

Rookie Andre Burakovsky scored his first two playoff goals and Braden Holtby saved a penalty shot, giving the Washington Capitals a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night for a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Burakovsky tied the game in the second period, then put Washington ahead 24 seconds into the third.

With 12 minutes left in regulation, Holtby — who finished with 28 saves — flicked his glove to catch Carl Hagelin's penalty shot and preserve the lead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

CFL partners with U.S. firm to broaden its appeal

Newly minted CFL commissioner Jeffrey Orridge says once younger Canadians are exposed to his league, they'll be hooked.

And he's looking to a U.S.-based company that brands itself as the "millennial voice and destination for sports" to help lure the next generation of fans. On Wednesday, the CFL announced a partnership with Whistle Sports, a multichannel digital network with millions of subscribers on various platforms including YouTube and Facebook.

"The idea is just to continue to expose it to as many people as possible," said Orridge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stampeders swap Mouton for offensive line Sanders

The Calgary Stampeders acquired offensive lineman Zebrie Sanders from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for defensive back Ryan Mouton on Tuesday.

Both are international players. Sanders was a fifth-round pick of the Buffalo Bills in 2012. He spent the '12 campaign on the injured-reserve list and attended the NFL team's training camp the following year before being released.

Mouton re-signed with Calgary as a free agent in February after joining the squad last October. He spent three seasons with Tennessee and the Washington Redskins after being taken in the third round, No. 94 overall, in the '09 NFL draft by the Titans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commanding Canada beat Swedes to top group

Canada rallied to maintain a perfect record at the ice hockey world championship by beating Sweden 6-4 on Wednesday for its fourth straight victory. In other matches, defending champion Russia bounced back from a loss to the United States with a 5-2 victory over Denmark and Latvia and Norway ended their three-game losing streaks by edging Switzerland 2-1 and Slovakia 3-2 respectively.

Buffalo Sabres forward Tyler Ennis wristed a shot high into the net from the left circle on a power play for Canada's winner with 6:29 left in the final period and Dallas Stars forward Tyler Seguin added the sixth into an empty net with 1:50 to go. Canada leads Group A with 12 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady 'aware' of ball tampering

NFL — 'DEFLATEGATE'

Inquiry says Patriot knew of violation and was assisted

An NFL investigation released Wednesday concluded New England Patriots employees likely deflated footballs used in the AFC Championship and that quarterback Tom Brady was "at least generally aware" of the rules violations.

The NFL began investigating what's now known as "Deflategate" after the Patriots defeated the Colts 45-7 on Jan. 18. The Colts complained that several balls were under-inflated, and the NFL confirmed that 11 of the 12 footballs were under the limit.

The investigation started as the Patriots were preparing for the Super Bowl — which they won two weeks later. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Troy Vincent, the league's executive vice-president of football operations, would review the 243-page report on attorney Ted Wells' investigation and consider what steps to take next.

"We will continue our efforts to protect the integrity of the game and promote fair play," Goodell said. The NFL requires balls to be inflated between 12.5 and 13.5 pounds per square inch, and each team is responsible for the balls it uses on offence.

Footballs with less pressure can be easier to grip and catch. Some quarterbacks prefer footballs that have less air. Brady said he prefers footballs inflated to 12.5. On many occasions, Brady said he never asked for balls to be deflated outside of the rules.

But the NFL report concluded "it was more than probable than not" that Jim McNally, the officials' locker room attendant, and John Jastremski, an equipment assistant for the Patriots, were involved in "a deliberate effort to release air" from the footballs before kickoff of the AFC title game — and after they were examined by the referee.

The report cites evidence that McNally took the game balls into a bathroom at Gillette Stadium and stayed there for "an amount of time sufficient to deflate 13 footballs using a needle." Other evidence included referee Walt Anderson's inability to locate the previously approved footballs at the start of the game — the first time that had happened to him in 19 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXTS TELL THE TALE

The report includes salty text messages between McNally and Jastremski that imply Brady was requesting footballs deflated below 12.5 pounds per square inch. The texts described requests from McNally for shoes and signed footballs from Brady in exchange for deflating the balls. "Remember to put a couple sweet pig skins ready for tom to sign," one said. "Nice, throw in some kicks and make it real special," another said.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HOLY HOOPS TAKE OVER VATICAN Harlem Globetrotters Hi-Lite Bruton, left, Ant Atkinson and Big Easy Lofton watch as teammate Flight Time Lang helps Pope Francis spin a basketball on his finger during the Pope's weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Wednesday. The Globetrotters, who are touring Italy, presented the Pope with a framed No. 90 jersey with his name on the back. L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/POOL PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

Lethal LeBron levels things up

LeBron James scored 33 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

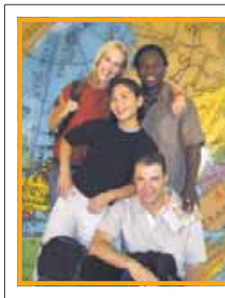
LeBron James attacked from the start and scored 33 points, Kyrie Irving added 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers evened their semifinal series with Chicago with a 106-91 victory over the Bulls in Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Donning his signature headband for the first time in two months and powering to the basket, James kept the Cavs from falling into a 2-0 hole. He added eight rebounds and five assists for Cleveland, which led by 25 in the third quarter and withstood a third-quarter charge by the Bulls.

For the second straight game, the Cavs were without forward Kevin Love (shoulder surgery) and J.R. Smith (two-game suspension). But they had James and he was more like himself after a subpar performance in the opener.

Jimmy Butler scored 18 and Derrick Rose had 14 points and 10 assists for the Bulls, who host Game 3 on Friday night. Pau Gasol added 11 points — 10 fewer than Game 1, when he destroyed the Cavs on uncontested jumpers.

Iman Shumpert added 15 points, James Jones made five 3-pointers and Tristan Thompson added 12 rebounds for Cleveland. Thompson started at power forward in Love's spot, allowing James to move back to his usual role at small forward. On the perimeter is where James is most dangerous and he made it clear from the outset that he wasn't going to wait for the game to come to him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 12 minutes
Serving Size: 4

Ingredients

- 12 oz raw shrimp, peeled and deveined (tail left on)
- 8 oz cleaned squid cut into rings
- 12 mussels, scrubbed
- 8 oz linguini
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced zucchini
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 Tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tsp hot chili sauce, or to taste
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or basil
- pinch salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425ºF. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking oil.

2. Place the shrimp, squid and mussels on the prepared baking sheet. Roast for 8 minutes, or until the mussels open. Remove from the oven and keep covered.

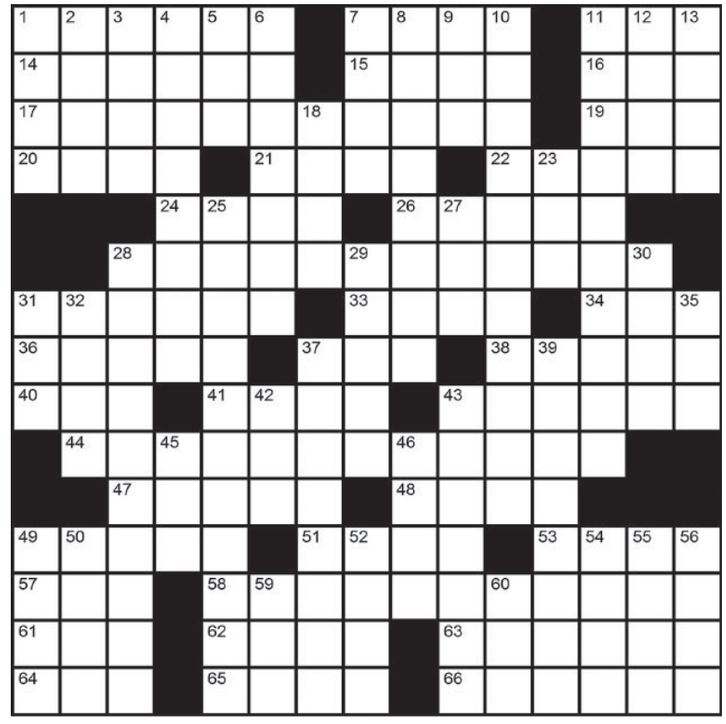
3. While the seafood roasts, cook the linguini in boiling water until al dente, about 8 minutes. Drain, reserving 2 tbsp of the pasta water for the sauce. Set aside.

4. While the pasta cooks, spray a large non-stick skillet with cooking oil, add the vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Add the onion, bell pepper and zucchini; stir-fry for 4 minutes, just until the vegetables begin to soften. Add the seafood, pasta, reserved pasta water, olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, chili sauce, cilantro, salt and pepper. Toss well and serve.

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Rain, e.g.
7. Richie's mom, Fonzie-style
11. Bathroom cleansing brand
14. Go for __ (Travel by car)
15. Prie-__ (Prayer bench)
16. Brouhaha
17. Extreme entertainment enjoyer: 2 wds.
19. Modern
20. __-les-Moulineaux, France
21. Wood: French
22. "Presto!" [pl.]
24. Pre-Virgo people
26. Axe: French
28. Anne of __ __ (Green Gables girl Anne is now a teacher in Summerside, PEI in this 1936 L.M Montgomery book)
31. Patriot Games novelist Tom
33. "At Last" singer Ms. James
34. Maude portrayer
36. Madonna's "__ _ Prayer"
37. Monogram of the author of Treasure Island
38. Sales pitch
40. 'Client' completer
41. Libertine
43. Sacred songs
44. 1967: Canada's __ __ (Pierre Berton book)
47. "__ Harbor" (2001)
48. Invoice abbr.
49. Britannica, e.g.
51. "Here It Goes Again" band: 2 wds.
53. "Bonanza" son
57. Bygone bird
58. Design to transfer onto a t-shirt: 2 wds.
61. 'B' or 'C' of The Spice Girls
62. Jacob van __ the Elder (Flemish painter)
63. Actress Gail
64. __-inclusive
65. Bill 'The Science Guy', and surnamesakes
66. Flippantly talks back

DOWN

1. "I Luh Ya __" by Jennifer Lopez
2. Nutrition amts.
3. Blunders
4. Daytime show on Canadian television since 1984
5. Trellis plant
6. Computer-animated flick, "Mr. __ & Sherman" (2014)
7. Gladiator's 1502
8. Drumming punctuations
9. Beaufort __
10. Movie or TV show with a loyal niche audience: 2 wds.
11. Gloria __, CNN host Anderson Cooper's designer mom
12. Notion
13. Does lawn work
18. Meddlesome [var. sp.]
23. "Gotcha!"
25. Edwin __ (Toronto Blue Jays player)
27. Fitting
28. Hotel service; or, warning prompting change: 2 wds.
29. Ship co-owner in Moby-Dick, Captain __
30. Feel
31. Canadian actor Mr. Bennett
32. Lively tune
35. Mr. Pacino's
37. Be a dog in an off-leash park: 2 wds.
39. Florida's NHL team
42. 'To hear' in Spanish
43. Pennsylvania mountains
45. King: Spanish
46. American Samoa's capital, when repeated
49. Ms. Stone
50. Liam's rocker brother
52. Chess pieces, e.g.
54. Wood sorrels
55. "Smooth Operator" singer
56. Mr. Stallone's, briefly
59. Banjo player Mr. Clark
60. Filmmaker org.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may enjoy upsetting the odds but don't get carried away. The planets warn if you make too many waves between now and the weekend it could be you who ends up underwater.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do something different over the next 24 hours, something that those who believe you are traditional by nature would never guess you are capable of. It's time to get yourself noticed.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Whatever else you do today do not put money before love. If you want to impress someone who means a lot to you then do whatever it takes and don't worry how much it may cost. Whatever the price it will be worth it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You have nothing to worry about, so stop being so fearful and get out there into the world. The planets indicate if you think lucky you will be lucky — so what have you got to lose?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do you think with your head or do you feel with your heart? Over the next two or three days you should favor your heart over your head. Not everything in life needs to make sense.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The order of the day is to have as much fun as is humanly possible. You have been working far too hard of late. If you're not smiling then you are doing it wrong.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Work and romance will go well together over the next two or three days — you don't have to choose between them. Use your Libran charms to influence people in positions of power.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do something that makes you feel good about yourself. Also, you may need to remove yourself from an environment that reminds you of things, or people, you would prefer to forget.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter what happens today, don't take it too seriously. Treat whatever occurs, be it "good" or be it "bad" as part of life's little game. It's your attitude that makes your world.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This should be a thoroughly enjoyable day for you, though looking back a few days hence you may wonder how and why you acted so out of character.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You won't hesitate to help someone in need today but the planets warn that the tale of woe you hear is only half of the story. Be that as it may you are not the sort to let them suffer.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone new on your social scene will get your heart beating faster today. Could a new romance be forming? There is certainly a psychic link between you, a karmic connection that neither can ignore.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				2	7	9		
	7	8	4	6				
	9		8					7
	4	1		7				3
7	3						4	8
6				1		7	2	
3					5		7	
				9	2	6	3	
		4	7	8				

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What's an 8 letter word that avoids bankruptcy?

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